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A History of the Louisiana School Boards Association.

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A HISTORY OF THE LOUISIANA SCHOOL
BOARDS ASSOCIATION

A Dissertation

Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of the
Louisiana State University and
Agricultural and Mechanical College
in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Education

in

The Department of Education

by

Anthony Eugene Pacella
B.S., The Ohio State University, 1961
M.S., Westminster College, 1964
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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to trace the background, development, growth, influence, and present status of the Louisiana School Boards Association during the period 1938 through January, 1973.

The historical method of research was used in this study. The following sources of data were used: (1) the minutes of the Louisiana School Boards Association's Annual Conventions and committee meetings; (2) personal interviews; and (3) publications.

Specific questions that were to be answered by the study and the answers to these questions are as follows:

1. What were some of the more significant motivating forces behind the initiation of the Louisiana School Boards Association?

The idea of forming a statewide organization of school board members was held by Mr. Lewis P. Roy of Marksville, Louisiana in 1937. Mr. Roy received strong support from State Superintendent of Schools T. H. Harris and as a result the Organizational Meeting and First Annual Convention of the Association was held in New Orleans, Louisiana on January 20 and 21, 1938.

2. What major obstacles has the Louisiana School Boards Association had to overcome in terms of the following?

A. Organization: The Constitution of the Association calls for two standing committees, an Executive Committee and a Board of Directors. Any additional committees are appointed by the President and/or the Executive Committee.

B. Membership: Except for three years, membership in the Association has been 100 percent.

C. Finances: The money needed to run the Association has come mainly from the member boards themselves.

D. Staff: The Staff of the Association has increased from a staff of one in 1938 to the present staff of five.

E. Facilities: The facilities of the Association have progressed from being nonexistent in 1938 to the present facilities on Plank Road.

3. What factors were responsible for the transition of the Louisiana School Boards Association from a part-time organization in 1938 to a full-time organization in 1947?

The main factor for the transition was the need that the Association could only exert maximum influence on education in the State if a full-time Executive Secretary was employed.

4. What influence did the Louisiana School Boards Association exert on the formation of the National School Boards Association?

The Association was represented at national organizational meetings both before and after World War II, which were centered around the founding of a national association.

5. What has been and is currently the degree of participation of the Louisiana School Boards Association in the National School Boards Association?

The Association has been represented at every convention of the National Association and has taken an active part in the National Association as officers, directors, convention speakers, and committee chairpersons.

6. What influence has the Louisiana School Boards Association had on education in Louisiana?

The Association has successfully lobbied on behalf of education in the State Legislature and has also been effective in carrying local problems before the State Legislature and State Board of Education.

7. What relationship has the Louisiana School Boards Association had with other education groups in the State?

Cooperation with all other educational organizations in the State is one of the six objectives of the Association enumerated in its Constitution. The Association has accomplished this through membership on various educational committees at the state and local level.

8. What has been the position of the Louisiana School Boards Association on significant education and non-education oriented legislation?

The Association sponsored and supported legislation beneficial to education and successfully opposed detrimental legislation.

9. What are the more important problems concerning the Louisiana School Boards Association at the present time?

Major problems include public relations, new school board member orientation, and school finance.

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

On January 20, 1938, the Louisiana School Boards Association was organized at a meeting called by the State Superintendent of Education, T. H. Harris, in the Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Association is a federation of the parish and city school boards of Louisiana. The primary aim is to provide service and research for public school board members and work for the betterment of education in the state. The Louisiana School Boards Association strives to help each board member become more competent in his or her duties through its annual conventions and its publications. Among the publications are included a monthly journal, The Boardman, an intermittently published newsletter, a legislative bulletin, and research reports. In 1960 the Association published a handbook, "School Board Service: A Handbook for Louisiana School Board Members," which is helpful in enabling new school board members to become acquainted with their duties.

The Association also proposes, promotes, and opposes state legislation dealing with education. It does this either on its own

or in conjunction with the United School Committee of Louisiana, whose organization the Association initiated.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study was to trace the background, development, growth, influence, and present status of the Louisiana School Boards Association during the period 1938 through January, 1973.

Specific questions to be answered by the study were:

1. What were some of the more significant motivating forces behind the initiation of the Louisiana School Boards Association?
2. What major obstacles has the Louisiana School Boards Association had to overcome in terms of the following?
 - A. Organization
 - B. Membership
 - C. Finances
 - D. Staff
 - E. Facilities
3. What factors were responsible for the transition of the Louisiana School Boards Association from a part-time organization in 1938 to a full-time organization in 1947?
4. What influence did the Louisiana School Boards Association exert upon the formation of the National School Boards Association?

5. What has been and is currently the degree of participation of the Louisiana School Boards Association in the National School Boards Association?

6. What influence has the Louisiana School Boards Association had on education in Louisiana?

7. What relationship has the Louisiana School Boards Association had with other education associations in the state?

8. What has been the position of the Louisiana School Boards Association on significant education and non-education oriented legislation?

9. What are the more important problems concerning the Louisiana School Boards Association at the present time?

DELIMITATION

The study was limited to the time period 1938 through the January, 1973 Annual Convention.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

Since its inception the Louisiana School Boards Association has become one of the most active and effective educational organizations in the state. The Association has sponsored important school legislation, worked for improved teaching, and helped local school boards and their members to solve their problems. Because of these contributions to education in Louisiana, the writer proposed to write a history of this organization.

PROCEDURE AND SOURCES

The historical method of research was used in this study.

The following sources of data were used:

1. Primary Sources

- A. The minutes of the Louisiana School Boards Association.

- B. Interviews

2. Secondary Sources

- A. Correspondence

- B. Publications

- C. Newspapers

ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

Chapter 1 provided general information on the Louisiana School Boards Association.

Chapter 2 presented the legal and historical background in the development of school boards. The background included the development of school boards in the United States and in Louisiana.

Chapter 3 provided background information on the Louisiana School Boards Association. The information included details of the founding of the Association.

Chapter 4 traced the development and growth of the Louisiana School Boards Association. Information of the transformation of the Association into a full-time organization was included in this section of the study.

Chapter 5 presented the influence of the Louisiana School Boards Association on education in Louisiana.

Chapter 6 detailed the present status of the Louisiana School Boards Association. Attention was given to the problems facing the Association at the present time.

Chapter 7 presented a summary of the study.

Chapter 2

LEGAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF SCHOOL BOARDS

DEVELOPMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

Today there are over 400,000 men and women serving on local school boards in the United States, 685 of these are board members in the State of Louisiana. In most cases these board members serve without pay except for compensation for expenses incurred in performing their duties. These people are involved in controlling large investments in property, buildings, and equipment and in the hiring of teachers and other school employees such as custodians, cafeteria workers, secretaries, and school bus drivers.

Local school boards have not always been a part of the educational scene in the United States. "The earliest colonial schools were planned and managed by the whole community--all the citizens had a voice in what was being done" (Atkinson and Maleska, 1965:210). That schools were locally controlled was inherent in the fact that they were the result of community action and financial support. Communities formed schools either because they wanted them or because of such compulsory school laws as the Massachusetts laws of 1642 and 1647 (The Old Deluder Satan Act).

As has already been stated, early colonial schools were controlled by the community or town. According to Cubberley (1962: 68-70) each New England Settlement was a unit, usually twenty to forty square miles, and was called a town. At the center of the town was a Meeting-House and eventually a town school and a town hall. All citizens were required to live within a half-mile of the Meeting-House and were also required to attend the town meetings and to send their children to the town school. In the town meetings all the interests of the town, including education, were discussed and acted upon. According to Atkinson and Maleska (1965:210) it became customary to appoint temporary committees when control by the town meeting became impractical for conducting school business. As the amount of school business increased, permanent committees replaced the temporary committees. Here one can see the early beginnings of local school boards.

The rise of the district system of education gave the main impetus to the formation of boards whose primary function was to administer education. By the end of the seventeenth century the New England town began to break down. "Many of the forces which at first necessitated a compact settlement began to lose their hold and the dominance of the old religious motive declined giving rise to new interests" (Cubberley, 1962:69). One of these new interests was to leave the central town area and live on the farming land. As a result new settlements came into existence within the town and people now lived many miles from the meeting and school houses. This

made it difficult to attend church and town meetings in the winter and virtually impossible for the children to attend school.

By 1725 the population of most of the towns had been scattered over much of the town's area, and small settlements, cut off from the central town by hills, streams, forests, or mere distance, had been formed (Cubberley, 1962:70).

As a result of poor communication these small settlements became isolated from and independent of the central town.

As the number of small settlements within the town increased, each settlement began to demand and obtain local rights. The first demand was to have their own minister. This led to the formation of parishes within the town. Each parish also had its own officers. Further divisions were made in regard to road districts, districts for recruiting militia, and finally districts for the assessing and collecting of taxes. "All these decentralizing tendencies contributed toward the growth of a district consciousness and the breakdown of town government" (Cubberley, 1962:70). The district parishes established dame schools in the summer and private tuition schools in the winter since these provided a more convenient means of schooling. Since the town schools were supported by a tax on the parents of the children attending, the central town schools were seriously hurt because they had, by law, to be maintained. To counteract the parish schools the towns made the town schools entirely free, but in order to do this they had to impose a general tax on all property. The parishes took advantage of this. Before they would consent to a general property tax they

demanding a division of the town school. According to Cubberley (1962:72-73) this resulted, at first, in the moving town school. School was held in each parish for a number of weeks each year in proportion to the amount of property tax for education each parish paid. Eventually each parish or school district was given the money it paid and was allowed to maintain its own school. This occurred toward the end of the eighteenth century when the parishes were given the right to elect school trustees, levy district school taxes, and select a teacher. These rights were granted in Connecticut in 1766 and in Massachusetts in 1789. Following the law of 1789 and culminating in 1827 more power was granted to local districts in Massachusetts. By 1827 the local districts had been given full local power to tax for schools, full power to contract and to sue and be sued, and finally laws which authorized the districts to select local trustees and allowed the trustees to choose textbooks and certificate teachers. Thus by 1827 the local school district, with a local board of education, had come into full acceptance and eventually spread throughout most of the United States (Cubberley, 1962:73).

Legally local school boards are state agencies and their members are state officers. In the United States the basic law of the land is the Constitution. According to Reutter and Hamilton (1970:2) all statutes passed by Congress or a state legislature, all local government ordinances, and the rules and regulations of local school boards are subject to the provisions of the United

States Constitution. However, since the Constitution of the United States does not expressly refer to education, under the Tenth Amendment education becomes a state function. Therefore, since education is a state function, local school boards are state agencies and their members are state officers. This holds true no matter what method is used to select local school board members. If local school board members are selected or appointed by a mayor or a city council they are still legally state officials. According to Garber and Edwards (1963:3) "the status of an officer is not determined by the method of his appointment but by the nature of his duties." "Local school board members are selected as the legislature prescribes, they hold office by virtue of legislative enactment, and their powers may be extended or limited at the discretion of the legislature" (Reutter and Hamilton, 1970:107). Therefore, the authority that a school board has, is authority that the state has delegated to it.

Within the fifty states the scope of powers granted to local school boards range from being very specific and limited to being very broad and general. For action taken by local school boards in specific situations there are five levels of authority:

These levels of authority are: (1) the state constitution, (2) legislative enactment (statutory law), (3) the rules and regulations of the state board of education, (4) decisions of the courts, and (5) societal demands (Goldhammer, 1964:4).

The constitution of each state contains some provisions for education. The provisions are usually very broad. Specific laws

defining a local school board's powers and duties are made by legislative enactment. State boards of education influence local boards through teacher certification standards, curriculum standards, and other accreditation standards. Court decisions are necessary when a question concerning the legality of school board authority arises.

It is fair to conclude that the courts will generally permit a school board to exercise the following powers and no others: (1) those powers expressly granted in the statutes; (2) those that are fairly implied or incidental to the power expressly granted; and (3) those essential to the accomplishment of the schools' objectives (Goldhammer, 1964:7).

At times society has demanded that the schools incorporate additional educational programs, and other programs such as recreational activities, certain psychological services, and some health services. According to Goldhammer (1964:8) local boards, in most cases, have been allowed to include these new programs in their schools' program either because of legislative enactment or because of the courts expanding the doctrine of implied powers.

DEVELOPMENT IN LOUISIANA

"Development of the free public school system in Louisiana did not parallel the development in New England and the Middle Atlantic Seaboard colonies" (Hunter, 1960:3). Louisiana was a French colony until it was ceded to Spain in 1762. It remained a Spanish colony until it was returned to France in 1800. According to Hunter, (1960:4) it was during this period, in 1772, that the

first public school in Louisiana was established. However, the school was not very successful because the French speaking Louisianians refused to send their children to public or Spanish-language schools. Louisiana was returned to the French in 1800 and then became a territory of the United States in 1803 under the provisions of the Louisiana Purchase. William C. C. Claiborne was the territorial governor.

Governor Claiborne advocated the establishment of a free public school system and an Act was passed by the Legislative Council and House of Representatives in 1806 providing for the organization of free public schools in the several parishes of the territory (Hunter, 1960:3-4).

The act called for the parish sheriffs to meet with the fathers of families in the parish and elect a five man commission. This commission was to adopt plans for organizing free public schools at parish expense. "The support of this system was placed, according to the custom of the time, on a lottery franchise" (Joel L. Fletcher in The Boardman, September-October, 1948:14). Fletcher (The Boardman, September-October, 1948:14-15) said that the plan failed because of the uncertainty of income and all that came of the Act was the establishment of the College of Orleans which functioned until 1826.

The Act of 1806 was the beginning, however, of free public schools and the development of local boards in Louisiana although it was repealed in 1808. Succeeding steps in the development of local schools and school boards occurred during the following years (Hunter, 1960:4-7):

1. 1811: Appropriations by the Territorial Legislature enabled Parish Academies to begin operation. Each parish was given \$2,000 for the purchase or construction of buildings and a yearly grant of \$500 for school operation.

2. 1821: The Act of 1821 gave \$800 annually to each academy for the admission of eight free tuition students. Parish control of the academies was placed in the police jury.

3. 1827: The general free school law of 1827 provided state assistance for school support. This law required the police juries to appoint five parish school administrators and three school trustees in each ward. The trustees, with the approval of the board of administrators, were empowered to hire and establish the salaries of the teachers in their ward.

4. 1845: A system of free public schools was established by the Constitution of 1845.

5. 1879: The Constitution of 1879 provided for the appointment of parish school boards and for the appointment of parish superintendents by these boards. Previously parish superintendents had been elected.

6. 1898: The Constitution of 1898 made provisions for a four year term for the State Superintendent, for a State Board of Education, and for parish school boards.

7. 1906: The Legislature made the selection of school board members elective for four year terms.

8. 1912: The Legislature increased the elected term of school board members to six years. The Legislature also established qualifications for school board membership. It required candidates for school boards to be qualified electors in the wards in which they sought office, to be able to read and write, and to be owners of property assessed at \$300 or more.

9. 1921: The Constitution of 1921 raised the property requirements to \$500.

10. 1946: The Legislature eliminated the property requirement for school board candidates.

Legally local school boards in Louisiana, as they are in the other states, are local representatives of the state government. Their establishment, means of selection, qualifications, rules of operation, and extent of authority are set by the State Constitution and legislative enactment.

Chapter 3

BACKGROUND OF THE LOUISIANA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Early in 1937 Mr. Lewis P. Roy of Marksville, Louisiana, a member of the Avoyelles Parish School Board, entertained the idea of forming a statewide organization of school board members (Statement by Lewis P. Roy, Personal Interview, Marksville, Louisiana, June 5, 1973). After considering the idea for a few days Mr. Roy decided to take it to the State Superintendent of Schools, T. H. Harris, whom Mr. Roy had known for some time. Superintendent Harris greeted the idea enthusiastically and said, "Well, I wondered when somebody was going to come here and start the ball rolling" (Statement by Lewis P. Roy, Personal Interview, Marksville, Louisiana, June 5, 1973). According to Mr. Roy, Superintendent Harris felt that the state needed an association of this type (Statement by Lewis P. Roy, Personal Interview, Marksville, Louisiana, June 5, 1973).

After the two men discussed the idea, Superintendent Harris called in his first assistant, Dr. John Foote, and explained the idea to him. He then asked Dr. Foote to work with Mr. Roy in developing a plan for a statewide school board members association. Mr. Roy and Dr. Foote then developed a plan and submitted it to

Superintendent Harris for his approval. Upon receiving approval for their plan, the two men then drafted a letter telling of the plans and calling for an organizational meeting in New Orleans and sent copies of it to every school board in the State of Louisiana. There were only a few responses to this letter (Statement by Lewis P. Roy, Personal Interview, Marksville, Louisiana, June 5, 1973).

A second letter, asking the school boards to please express their opinions on the matter, was sent. There were many more responses to this letter and most of the responses were favorable. However, very few boards indicated that they would attend an organizational meeting in New Orleans (Statement by Lewis P. Roy, Personal Interview, Marksville, Louisiana, June 5, 1973). Mr. Roy and Dr. Foote related this to Superintendent Harris. According to Mr. Roy, (Statement by Lewis P. Roy, Personal Interview, Marksville, Louisiana, June 5, 1973) Superintendent Harris then said, "Well now, you just leave that to me, I'll get them to New Orleans. I'll just rule that the school boards can pay the expenses of the school board members to the convention in New Orleans." Superintendent Harris then wrote a letter to all of the school boards in the State of Louisiana telling them of his ruling on expenses and of his desire to get the organization started. As a result every school board in the State of Louisiana was represented at the Organizational Meeting in New Orleans.

The Organizational Meeting and First Annual Convention of the Louisiana School Boards Association was held in the Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana on January 20 and 21, 1938. The State Superintendent of Schools, T. H. Harris, called the meeting to order and explained the purpose of the meeting and outlined some of the benefits anticipated from the Association. The first officers of the Association were then elected, they were: Lewis P. Roy of Avoyelles Parish, President; C. W. Thompson of Webster Parish, Vice-President; and Fred G. Thatcher of Ouachita Parish, Secretary-Treasurer. Mr. Roy assumed office and started the program. Topics of discussion included school finance, public school development in Louisiana, duties, responsibilities, and authority of parish school boards, selection of school personnel, and public school transportation. A constitution was also proposed (Appendix A, Constitution One). The appointment of an advisory committee, composed of one member from each of the eight Congressional Districts of the State, was delayed until February 21, 1938. According to Mr. Roy the reason for the delay was that he was not familiar with the people over the entire state. In addition, Mr. Roy consulted with State Superintendent Harris before making any appointments to the Advisory Committee (Statement by Lewis P. Roy, Personal Interview, June 5, 1973).

Initially, the organization was called "The Louisiana Parish School Board Members Association." Membership in the Association was open to all regularly elected or appointed members

of the parish school boards of Louisiana. Membership dues were set at \$25.00 per year per Parish School Board (Appendix A, Constitution One).

The proposed constitution was not approved until the Second Annual Convention was held in Shreveport, Louisiana on February 22, 1939. Article I of the Constitution, dealing with the name of the Association, was amended to change the name of the Association, to "The Louisiana School Board Association" (Appendix A, Constitution Two). The change to the present name of the Association, "The Louisiana School Boards Association", was made during the 1941 Annual Convention. Membership in the Association has been excellent from the start. In 1938 all of the parish school boards in the State were members of the Association. During 1939 and 1940 the East Carroll Parish School Board was not a member of the Association and during 1941 the Rapides Parish School Board chose not to belong to the Association. According to Mr. Lewis P. Roy (Personal Interview, Marksville, Louisiana, June 5, 1973) there was some disagreement during the 1939 Annual Convention and a floor fight took place, during which an attempt was made to break up the Association. This may be the reason that the East Carroll Parish School Board did not belong to the Association for two years. It could not be determined why the Rapides Parish School Board dropped out of the Association for a year. These were the only instances of school boards in the State not belonging to the Association until 1960, when the Orleans Parish School Board was asked to leave the Association over problems concerning intergration.

At first the Louisiana School Boards Association was only a part-time organization. With only sixty-seven boards in the State paying dues of \$25.00 annually, sufficient finances were not available to support a full-time staff, clerical help, extensive research, or permanent facilities. Beginning in March of 1939 Mr. Thatcher was paid twenty-five dollars monthly for his work as secretary-treasurer, which involved keeping the books and taking the minutes of the annual convention as well as the minutes of the Executive and Advisory Committee meetings. According to both Mr. Roy (Personal Interview, Marksville, Louisiana, June 5, 1973) and Mr. Thatcher (Personal Interview, West Palm Beach, Florida, March 14, 1973) very little was accomplished that first year. Executive Committee meetings were held throughout the year to plan and organize for activities and to make provisions for the dissemination of information to the school boards of the State. Mr. Roy (Personal Interview, Marksville, Louisiana, June 5, 1973) stated that these meetings were held in order to begin to reach the goals of the Association which were to acquaint the school board members with the Educational System of Louisiana and its problems, to work to solve these problems, and also to work as a lobbying organization for the improvement and continuance of the State School System of Louisiana. During 1938 the Advisory Committee recommended that the Association take a stand against certain legislation that had been proposed in the State Legislature.

"Meetings were held with Governor Leche and various senators and representatives but only partial success was met in blocking the passage of these bills" (Executive and Advisory Committees Meeting, Minutes, June 12, 13, and 14, 1938).

Chapter 4

DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF THE LOUISIANA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

ORGANIZATION

The Louisiana School Boards Association, from its inception, has organized its activities around committees. The first Constitution of the Association, adopted at the Second Annual Convention held in Shreveport, Louisiana on February 22, 1939, called for two committees, the Executive and the Advisory Committees. The Executive Committee, composed of the President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer, carried out the work of the Association between the annual conventions. The duties of the President were to preside at all meetings and to perform such other duties as were generally required of presiding officers. The Vice-President served in the absence of the President and on committees when called upon. The Secretary-Treasurer kept the records of the Association, attended to all necessary correspondence, took care of all the funds of the Association, and submitted an annual financial report to the Association (Appendix A, Constitution Two).

The Advisory Committee, composed of one member from each of the eight Congressional Districts in Louisiana, was subject to the call of the President and acted in an advisory capacity to the

officers of the Association. The Advisory Committee was appointed by the incoming President and served until the next Annual Convention (Appendix A, Constitution Three). In 1940 the retiring President was made a member at large of the Advisory Committee (1940 Annual Convention, Minutes).

At the recommendation of the Executive and Advisory Committees the delegates to the 1940 Annual Convention approved the initiation of a Legislative Committee (1940 Annual Convention, Minutes). The Legislative Committee was authorized to act as it saw fit on important pending legislation after getting the views of all the boards in the State on the matter (Executive and Advisory Committees Meeting, Minutes, March 3, 1940).

On May 31, 1940 at a joint meeting of the Executive, Advisory, and Legislative Committees a resolution was adopted which authorized the President of the Association to appoint a committee to work with the Louisiana Teachers' Association's Legislative Committee in passing on all bills introduced in the Legislature affecting schools (Joint Meeting of the Executive, Advisory, and Legislative Committees, Minutes, May 31, 1940). This was one of the first instances of the Louisiana School Boards Association cooperating with other education associations in the State. The 1944 Convention of the Louisiana School Boards Association adopted a resolution that empowered the Legislative Committee to participate in joint meetings with committees from the Louisiana Teachers' Association, the Louisiana Superintendents' Association, the State

Department of Education and/or the State Board of Education for the purpose of reviewing, discussing and endorsing or opposing legislation affecting directly or indirectly the public school system of Louisiana (1944 Annual Convention, Minutes). Here was the start of the United School Committee. At this time, however, the United School Committee functioned for only one year. In 1946 the Advisory Council authorized a Liaison Legislative Committee to work with three members from each of the following education associations in the State: the Louisiana Teachers' Association, the Louisiana Superintendents' Association, the Louisiana Parent-Teacher Association, the State Department of Education, and the State Board of Education. This committee worked to support or oppose pending education legislation in the State Legislature.

In 1944 it was decided to call combined meetings of the Advisory Committee, Legislative Committee, Publicity Committee, and past presidents of the Administrative Council (Advisory Committee Meeting, Minutes, November 16, 1944). At a meeting of the Administrative Council on November 11, 1949 Louisiana School Boards Association President F. A. Keelen reported that a number of requests had been received asking that the United School Committee be reactivated and that since the Association had sponsored the original one, the other education groups in the State were looking to the Louisiana School Boards Association to take the initiative in reactivating it. The Administrative Council then approved a resolution to continue to sponsor the United School Committee, which

the Association continued to do as of 1973 (Administrative Council Meeting, Minutes, November 11, 1949).

The adoption of a new constitution on March 4, 1952 changed the committee structure of the Louisiana School Boards Association. The new constitution called for three standing committees and a Board of Directors (Appendix A, Constitution Four). One committee, the Executive Committee, consisted of the President, First and Second Vice-Presidents, and the Executive-Secretary-Treasurer. The other two committees were the Legislative and Publicity Committees both of which were appointed by the president with the approval of the Executive Committee. The Publicity Committee is no longer used by the Association (Personal Interview, James D. Prescott, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, April 18, 1973).

The Board of Directors, which replaced the Advisory Committee, consisted of twelve members, one from each of the eight Congressional Districts in the State, the active President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, and the immediate Past President. The duties of the Board of Directors included meeting at times determined by the President or upon the written request of eight of its members, the power to act in all matters affecting the welfare of the Association not included in the Constitution or where a meeting of the entire Association was inexpedient, recommending plans of action to the Association, preparing and proposing to the Annual Convention an annual budget for approval by the Association,

and determining annual dues for member boards and associate members subject to approval by the Association (Appendix A, Constitution Four, By-Laws).

Any additional committees are appointed by the Executive Committee and/or the President. Examples of this are the ad-hoc study committees which are appointed to study immediate problems. Recent ad-hoc committees have been the School Finance Committee and the Committee on School Insurance (Personal Interview, James D. Prescott, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, August 10, 1973).

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Association has been excellent from the beginning. It has been 100 percent with few exceptions and with never more than one local school board not belonging to the Association in a given year. In 1939 and 1940 the East Carroll Parish School Board did not belong to the Association and in 1941 the Rapides Parish School Board chose not to belong to the Association.

During the 1939 Annual Convention there was some disagreement and a floor fight took place during which an attempt was made to break up the Association. This may have been the reason that the East Carroll Parish School Board did not belong to the Association in 1939 and 1940 (Statement by Lewis P. Roy, Personal Interview, Marksville, Louisiana, June 5, 1973).

It could not be determined why the Rapides Parish School Board dropped out of the Association for a year.

The Twenty-Fourth Annual Convention of the Association on January 15, 1961 adopted a resolution to remove the Orleans Parish

School Board from its membership in the Louisiana School Boards Association (The Boardman, January-February, 1961:1-2). This resolution was a result of controversy over the integration of schools in Orleans Parish. According to Matthew R. Sutherland, 1960 President of the Louisiana School Boards Association and then President of the Orleans Parish School Board, (Personal Interview, Matthew R. Sutherland, New Orleans, Louisiana, June 6, 1973) the Federal Government was attempting to force integration in southern cities at the time and New Orleans was the target city in Louisiana. Mr. Sutherland said, "the Orleans Parish School Board at first resisted the idea but soon realized that integration was coming whether they liked it or not" (Statement by Matthew R. Sutherland, Personal Interview, New Orleans, Louisiana, June 6, 1973). Then the Orleans Parish School Board was faced with a decision whether to let the Federal Government devise an integration plan or develop their own. The Orleans Parish School Board decided to develop their own plan, did so, and instituted it. As a result the State Legislature addressed the Orleans Parish School Board out of office and it was on this basis that the Louisiana School Boards Association removed the Orleans Parish School Board from its membership in the Association. The Orleans Parish School Board rejoined the Association in 1966 after a resolution was adopted by the Twenty-Ninth Annual Convention extending an invitation to the Orleans Parish School Board to return to the Association (The Boardman, March, 1966:39).

FINANCES

Money to support the Louisiana School Boards Association has come mainly from the member boards themselves. From 1938 to 1946 each local board paid annual dues of \$25.00. Starting in 1947 when the Association began to operate on a full-time basis the annual dues were raised to \$200.00 per local board. This rate continued until 1952 when a sliding scale of dues was introduced and approved by the Association. The new schedule of dues was broken into six brackets or levels as follows:

1. \$200/year: board income less than \$500,000.
2. \$250/year: board income \$500,000 to \$1 million.
3. \$300/year: board income over \$1 million but less than \$1.5 million.
4. \$325/year: board income over \$1.5 million but less than \$2 million.
5. \$350/year: board income over \$2 million but less than \$3 million.
6. \$375/year: board income over \$3 million.

Since 1952 there have been various increases in the dues. The 1973 dues schedule is as follows:

1. \$1,000/year: board income less than \$2 million.
2. \$1,500/year: board income over \$2 million but less than \$3 million.
3. \$2,000/year: board income over \$3 million but less than \$5 million.

4. \$2,500/year: board income over \$5 million but less than \$20 million.

5. \$3,000/year: board income over \$20 million (Dues Schedule, 1973).

There is no board in category one. According to both Mr. James Prescott and Mr. Art Greene the members of the Association have been very understanding when asked to raise the dues for membership in the Association. There is some income which is derived from sources other than dues. These sources include advertisements in The Boardman and exhibitor fees at the annual conventions (Personal Interview, Art Greene, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, May 24, 1973).

STAFF

At first the only paid staff member was Mr. Fred G. Thatcher who was the Secretary and Treasurer of the Association from its inception in 1938 until 1962. In 1947, when the Association became a full-time organization, a secretary was added to the staff. In 1957 Mrs. Lilly Capdevielle became Mr. Thatcher's secretary and is still with the Association. Since Mr. James Prescott became Executive Secretary of the Association the staff has been expanded to include an Assistant Executive-Secretary, a position now held by Mr. Art Greene, and three additional office personnel.

FACILITIES

From 1938 to 1947 the facilities of the Association were nonexistent. The work of the Louisiana School Boards Association was carried on by Mr. Thatcher from his office at Northeast Junior College, Monroe, Louisiana, where he was the Registrar. When the Association became a full-time organization in 1947, Dean Rodney Cline allowed Mr. Thatcher free use of an office at Northeast Junior College until a move to Baton Rouge could be made. The Association then moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana where Dean E. B. Robert permitted the Association to use an office in Peabody Hall on the Campus of Louisiana State University. In 1969, the Association moved to larger offices at 2655 Plank Road in Room 104 of the Ourso Building.

TRANSITION TO FULL-TIME

The decision to make the Louisiana School Boards Association a full-time organization was made during the 1946 Annual Convention in New Orleans on June 17, and 18. Mr. Julius Hotard reported to the Convention as follows:

The Administrative Council has felt that under the present set up the Association is not exerting its maximum influence in the State and it is thought that with the election of an executive-secretary to a full time position this individual could keep in constant contact with whatever is going on in the State pertaining to school boards and legislation, and in this way the work of the Association will be more effective. With these things in view a committee was appointed, which drew up the following resolution (1946 Annual Convention, Minutes).

The resolution read as follows:

Be it resolved, That the Constitution of the Louisiana School Boards Association be amended as follows:

"Article IV be changed to read as follows:

'The officers of the Association shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, and an Executive-Secretary. The Executive-Secretary shall also be the Treasurer. The President and the Vice-Presidents shall be elected annually during the business session of the convention and shall serve until their successors have been chosen and duly installed. The Executive-Secretary shall be elected by the Administrative Council to serve for a term of four years.'

"Article V, Section III be changed to read as follows:

'The Executive-Secretary shall be a full-time employee of the Association. He shall maintain an office, the location of which shall be approved by the Administrative Council. He shall keep all the records of the Association and attend to all necessary correspondence. He shall be the custodian of all the funds of the Association and shall furnish bond in favor of the Louisiana School Boards Association in such amount as approved by the Administrative Council, premiums on the same to be paid by the Association. All disbursements shall be made by warrant, signed by the Executive-Secretary-Treasurer and countersigned by the President.'

'He shall act as publisher and editor of a monthly journal to be issued by the Association under the direction of the Administrative Council.'

'The salary and expenses of the Executive-Secretary shall be fixed by the Administrative Council.'

"Article VIII be changed to read as follows:

'Each school board desiring membership in the Association shall pay into the treasury of the Association the sum of \$200.00 on January 1st of each year.'

The resolution was adopted by the Convention on June 18, 1946, and the transition to a full-time organization was started by the Louisiana School Boards Association. At a meeting of the

Administrative Council held on December 6, 1946 in Baton Rouge, Mr. Fred G. Thatcher was offered the position of full-time Executive-Secretary effective February 1, 1947 (The Boardman, August, 1947: 75). Mr. Thatcher accepted the position and served in this capacity until his retirement in 1961. At this time Mr. Thatcher was the Registrar of Northeast Junior College, now Northeast Louisiana University, and was asked to remain with the college until the mid-term registration was completed on February 7, 1947. Baton Rouge, Louisiana had been designated as the permanent headquarters of the Association but due to difficulties in securing office space and living quarters in Baton Rouge, permission was given by the officials of the Association for temporary location in Monroe, Louisiana. The official journal of the Association, The Boardman, began publication with the April, 1947 issue (The Boardman, August, 1947:11).

Chapter 5

INFLUENCE OF THE LOUISIANA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

"In 1940 there were attempts made by two different groups to effect the permanent organization of a national school boards association." (The Boardman, March, 1956:9). In November, 1940 a meeting was held in Knoxville, Tennessee which was attended by representatives from several states. The Louisiana School Boards Association was represented by its Past President Lewis P. Roy of Marksville, Louisiana and the alternate was C. T. Bienvenu of St. Martin Parish. Another meeting was held in 1941 but later the organization was discontinued because of restrictions imposed on meetings due to World War II. Earlier in 1940, on February 20, an organizational meeting was held in St. Louis, Missouri and the National Council of State School Boards Association was formed. Evidence of attendance by a representative from Louisiana could not be found. Meetings of this Association were also held in February, 1941 and in February, 1942. World War II restrictions, however, prevented further meetings and the organization became dormant (The Boardman, March, 1956:9).

Following World War II Robert M. Cole, Executive Director of the Illinois Association of School Boards, invited the presidents and secretaries of state school boards associations to attend a meeting in Springfield, Illinois in November of 1945, during the Annual Convention of the Illinois Association, for the purpose of reactivating the national association. The meeting was attended by twenty-five state association officials from seven states including Louisiana (The Boardman, March, 1956:9). John J. Doles and Fred G. Thatcher represented the Louisiana School Boards Association and Mr. Thatcher was also made chairman of a committee to draft a constitution for the national association. This constitution was adopted during the March, 1946 meeting in Chicago, Illinois. During this meeting Mr. Thatcher was also re-elected as First Vice-President. The national organization was called the National Council of State School Boards Association until the name was changed to the National School Boards Association during the 1948 Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The National Association is a federation of state associations not directly involved with local board membership (The Boardman, March, 1956:9-10).

The Louisiana School Boards Association has been represented at every convention of the National School Boards Association and its members have taken an active part in the National Association as officers, directors, convention speakers, and committee chairmen. Some of these were:

1. Fred G. Thatcher: First Vice-President, 1945 and 1946 (The Boardman, March, 1957:17);
2. Gano D. Lemoine: Director, 1948 (The Boardman, March, 1956:11);
3. Fred G. Thatcher: Member of the Research and Development Project of the National School Boards Association in 1957 (The Boardman, March, 1957:5);
4. Loney J. Autin: Chairman of the Southwest Region of the National School Boards Association in 1956 (The Boardman, March, 1956:11);
5. Joseph P. Arceneaux: Member of the Resolutions Committee, 1963 National School Boards Association Convention (The Boardman, February-March, 1963:47);
6. Dr. S. R. Abramson: Chairman, Special Interest Clinic, 1963 National School Boards Association Convention (The Boardman, February-March, 1963:47);
7. Frank C. Bruce: Speaker, 1965 National School Boards Association Convention (The Boardman, February, 1965:26);
8. Fulton J. Bacon: Member of the Resolutions Committee, 1966 National School Boards Association Convention (The Boardman, March, 1966:9);
9. James D. Prescott: Member of the Legislative Committee, 1966 National School Boards Association Convention (The Boardman, March, 1966:9);

10. Koy F. Pace: Board of Directors, Southern Region of the National School Boards Association, 1968-70 (The Boardman, April, 1968:34);

11. Fulton J. Bacon: Member of the Legislative Committee, 1968 National School Boards Association Convention and President of the Southern Region School Boards Association in 1968 (The Boardman, March, 1968:2);

12. Koy F. Pace: Chairman, Credentials Committee, 1969 National School Boards Association Convention (The Boardman, September, 1968:39);

13. Allen J. Tillery: Policies and Resolutions Committee, 1970 National School Boards Association Convention (The Boardman, October, 1969:9);

14. Fulton J. Bacon: Office Location Committee, 1969 National School Boards Association Convention (The Boardman, September, 1968:39);

15. Dr. Andrew Rinker: Steering Committee, Council of Big City Boards of Education, 1969 (The Boardman, September, 1968:39);

16. James D. Prescott: Ad-hoc Committee of State-National School Boards Association Communications, 1969 (The Boardman, September, 1968:39);

17. Koy F. Pace: Board of Directors, National School Boards Association, 1971-73 (The Boardman, April, 1971:15);

18. James D. Prescott: Vice-President of the Association of Executive-Secretaries of State School Boards Association, 1971 (The Boardman, April, 1971:15).

INFLUENCE ON EDUCATION IN LOUISIANA

The Louisiana School Boards Association's influence on education in Louisiana can be found in many areas. According to Dean E. B. Robert (Personal Interview, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, May 8, 1973) the Louisiana School Boards Association's first contribution to education in Louisiana has been to improve themselves, especially new school board members. Dr. John A. Hunter, retired President of Louisiana State University, (Personal Interview, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, June 5, 1973) put it another way when he said that the Association has "professionalized" school board members' attitudes and made them more competent in fulfilling their duties. Dr. Hunter said that during his years with the Association he saw a change in attitude of school board members from one of being executors to one of being policy makers. Both Dr. Hunter and Dean Robert agree that this has been accomplished through the Association's Annual Conventions and their district and regional workshops. During the Annual Conventions current problems in education, both state and national, are presented to the membership through guest speakers and panel discussions. The district and regional workshops also contribute to the betterment of school

board members by meeting with local school boards in small groups and presenting and discussing solutions to specific problems.

The Association's publications also contribute to helping a local school board member become more competent in his or her duties. Publications like The Boardman, the Association's monthly journal, contain information on such things as school insurance, school law, school finance, recent innovations in education, and any other topics that may be of interest or importance to school board members. A second publication, School Board Service: A Handbook for Louisiana School Board Members, first published in 1952 in cooperation with the State Department of Education, revised in 1960 by Dr. John A. Hunter, and revised again in 1973 by Dr. J. B. Gremillion, is helpful to new school board members in acquainting them with their duties. A third publication of the Louisiana School Boards Association, A Suggested Guide for Internal Accounting for Louisiana Schools, written by Robert S. Swayze and published in 1969 can be beneficial to local school boards in helping to keep their financial records in order (Personal Interview, Dr. John A. Hunter, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, June 5, 1973).

A second influence which the Louisiana School Boards Association has had on education in Louisiana has been its emphasis on the importance of research in education in such areas as school finance, school law, academics, and administration. The Association does this through its support of the Louisiana Education Research Association to which it has belonged since 1957 (Board of Directors Meeting, Minutes, February 3, 1957).

An important contribution of the Louisiana School Boards Association to education in Louisiana has been the influence that the Association has enjoyed in the State Legislature. According to Mr. Lewis P. Roy (Personal Interview, Marksville, Louisiana, June 5, 1963) there had been only a minimal amount of lobbying for education in the Legislature previous to 1938 and during the first few years after the founding of the Louisiana School Boards Association, the Association was the only group doing any lobbying at all in the Legislature. Since then the Louisiana School Boards Association has been very active, along with the other education groups in the State, lobbying in the legislature. The Association initiated the organization of the United School Committee, which is an organization made up of most of the education groups in Louisiana. The United School Committee meets and then decides on a legislative program and presents it to the State Legislature. The Committee has been very effective in promoting and opposing school legislation in the State (Personal Interview, James D. Prescott, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, April 18, 1973).

According to Dean E. B. Robert (Personal Interview, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, May 8, 1973) the Association has been influential not only in helping the State Department of Education and State Superintendent of Education to carry out the policies of the State Board of Education but also in helping local boards to get their own problems before the State Board of Education. Henry G. Taliaferro (Personal Interview, Jonesville, Louisiana, June 5,

1973) and Lewis P. Roy (Personal Interview, Marksville, Louisiana, June 5, 1973) both said that the Association has been influential in helping to keep education in Louisiana stable and uniform throughout the State. Mr. Roy said that this was accomplished because the Association brought together people from all over the State and showed them that they had common problems in the area of education which could be solved by working together.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS IN LOUISIANA

Cooperation with all other educational organizations in the State is one of the six objectives of the Association enumerated in its Constitution.

Activities that have been directed toward this objective include membership on the United School Committee, the Louisiana Commission on Teacher Education and Professional Standards, the Louisiana Advisory Committee on Teacher Education and Certification, and the Louisiana Guidance Council. In addition the president and executive-secretary meet frequently with superintendents both at the State and district levels and are called upon each year to participate in numerous other meetings of educational and non-educational groups (The Boardman, February-March, 1964:14-15).

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION

During the first two years of its existence the Louisiana School Boards Association had very limited success regarding school legislation. In June of 1938 members of the Executive and Advisory Committees met to discuss pending legislation. Their objective

was to prevent the passage of bills detrimental to education, especially some bills relating to school finance. Even though they met with Governor Leche and received his promise of cooperation and personally contacted senators and representatives, their efforts were rewarded with only partial success (Executive and Advisory Council Meeting, Minutes, June 12-14, 1938). The one-half cent per gallon gasoline tax, of the then gasoline tax of five cents per gallon, dedicated to the State Board of Education was taken away.

The first major successes of the Louisiana School Boards Association occurred during 1940.

In 1930, the Louisiana Constitution was amended so as to dedicate to the State Public School Fund the residue of the Severance Tax Fund, after allowing for the purchase of textbooks for the school children of the State (The Boardman, August, 1947:44).

However, in 1936 this distribution was altered to allow the Legislature to appropriate money from the Severance Tax Fund for other purposes. The 1939 Convention of the Louisiana School Boards Association approved a resolution endorsing the action of the Louisiana Teachers' Association in asking the Legislature to return the dedication of this fund to education (1939 Annual Convention, Minutes). This dedication was restored in 1940. Also in 1940 the Association's Executive and Legislative Committees supported an amendment to House Bill 913 which provided for a tax of one cent per package on cigarettes with the revenue from this tax dedicated to the State Public School Fund (Executive and Legislative Committees Meeting, Minutes, June 23, 1940).

The second significant success of the Association regarding education legislation came in 1944. The United School Committee, founded and led by the Louisiana School Boards Association, was given credit by State Superintendent of Education John E. Cox for their part in the passage of legislation which provided a per educable distribution of \$22.50, making the Louisiana State Per Educable Distribution the highest in the Southern States. In addition a new compulsory attendance law and a twelve year school program was authorized by the legislature (Advisory Committee Meeting, Minutes, December 16, 1944). The twelve year school program, advocated by the Association, was fully implemented in 1949 (The Boardman, July, 1948:14). In 1946 the Louisiana School Boards Association successfully opposed Senate Bill 31 which would have made the office of parish school superintendent an elective one.

According to Mack Avants, 1948 Louisiana Teachers' Association President, the 1948 Legislature of Louisiana enacted the most constructive and far-reaching program of educational support up to that point in Louisiana History (The Boardman, July, 1948:10). The United School Committee, organized by the Louisiana School Boards Association on February 4, 1948, was given a great deal of the credit for the enactment of this legislation (The Boardman, July, 1948:10). The more important legislation included:

- (1) The establishment of a statewide minimum salary schedule. Louisiana became the fifth state in nation to do this. The salaries of black and white teachers were also equalized.

(2) The increasing of the severance taxes already dedicated to the State Public School Fund under constitutional authority. This increase provided approximately \$23,000,000 additional revenue dedicated to education, raising the total dedication to \$44,000,000.

(3) An appropriation of \$4,000,000 per annum for the free school lunch program.

(4) The authorization of Police Juries to appropriate available parish funds to aid local school boards in constructing and operating parish public schools.

(5) The authorization of parish school boards to incur debts and issue bonds for erecting and equipping school buildings in an amount not in excess of fifteen percent of the assessed valuation of taxable property within the school district.

(6) The authorization of parish school boards to call an election for the purpose of assuming the bonded indebtedness of school districts.

(7) Authorizing parish school boards to create consolidated school districts for the purpose of issuing bonds with the approval of taxpaying voters residing in the proposed consolidated school district.

The Louisiana School Boards Association was unsuccessful in getting one of their proposals approved in 1948. The 1948 Annual Convention of the Association adopted a resolution advocating changing the selection of the State Superintendent of Education from that of popular election to selection by the State Board of Education (1948 Annual Convention, Minutes).

In 1952 a five point recommendation was made by the United School Committee covering, in general, the essential needs of the schools in the matter of legislation and an increase in financial support. This resulted in the passage of some very effective school legislation and a substantial increase in State support. The per educable appropriation was

increased to \$44.40 with a corresponding increase in the Equalization Fund. Also, a ten percent cost of living adjustment for school personnel was secured (The Boardman, September, 1955:4).

On February 19, 1954 the United School Committee adopted the following resolutions:

Be it resolved by the United School Committee of Louisiana that:

(1) The Legislature of Louisiana in the Regular Session of 1954 be requested to amend Act 155 of 1948 to provide for an improved salary schedule which will assure to every teacher holding a B.A. degree and teaching in this State a minimum salary of \$4,000 per annum for the maximum experience considered in the schedule for such teachers.

(2) The amended minimum salary schedule provide for the teacher holding a Master's degree, or higher degree, a minimum salary of \$4,800 per annum for the maximum experience considered in the schedule for such teachers.

(3) The Legislature be requested to provide proportionate salary increases for all other teaching and nonteaching personnel.

Be it resolved:

(1) That the State Superintendent of Education be requested to have computed at the earliest possible date salary schedules embodying these goals according to several experience tables for later and final consideration of the Committee.

(2) That the State Superintendent of Education be further requested to compute the costs of these schedules, and the financial effects upon the several parishes, in order that a schedule may be recommended to the Legislature which will be reasonable, fair, and just and which will not significantly impair the overall operations in a parish (The Boardman, February, 1954:18-19).

The 1954 Annual Convention of the Louisiana School Boards Association approved and endorsed these resolutions on March 16, 1954 (The Boardman, March, 1954:22).

After further study the United School Committee adopted a seven point legislative program to be presented to the 1954 Louisiana Legislature. The recommendations were as follows:

(1) That all present funds provided for public elementary and secondary education be maintained and expanded to meet the needs during the next biennium 1954-56. That further school funds be made available for the employment of additional necessary personnel and other facilities to provide reasonable educational opportunities for all the increased number of Louisiana school children.

(2) That the Legislature of Louisiana in the Regular Session of 1954 amend Act 155 of 1948 to provide for an increase in the teachers' minimum salary schedule.

(3) That the special appropriation now in effect which provides for the cost of living adjustment be utilized and supplemented for the purpose of meeting the above proposed adjusted teachers' salary schedule and for the adjusted proportional salaries for all other public school employees.

(4) That there be no reduction in rates of the present taxes which support public education or any revenue sources from which public school funds are derived; that there be no diversion of public school funds as presently derived from taxes dedicated to the public school fund.

(5) That there shall be preserved in their present form laws providing for teacher tenure, sick, sabbatical, maternity, and military leaves; and for the maintenance and operation of the retirement systems affecting school personnel.

(6) That all revenues to be derived from severance products from the Louisiana Tidelands shall be dedicated by Constitutional Amendment to Public Education in Louisiana.

(7) That the State Legislature take appropriate action for such provisions as are necessary in making correct application and divisions of funds derived from the Rockefeller Foundation subject to the provisions of the deed accepted by the State of Louisiana (The Boardman, April, 1954:14-15).

Through the efforts of the United School Committee and the Louisiana School Boards Association the Seven Point Program of the United School Committee met with considerable success in the Legislature (The Boardman, September, 1954:5-6). Point One of the Legislative Program requested sufficient funds to provide a reasonable education for Louisiana's increasing school population. Schedule Ten of the General Appropriation Act of the 1954 Session provided \$48.00 per educable along with corresponding increases in the equalization fund and the special teacher salary fund. Act Number Eight of the 1954 Regular Session of the Legislature increased the State Minimum Salary Schedule to the requested level. Point Three of the Seven Point Program was approved by Act Number Nine of the 1954 Regular Session which made provisions for the transfer of one-fourth of the State Sales Tax from the Public Welfare Fund to the Public School Fund for the purpose of increasing the salaries of all school personnel (The Boardman, September, 1954:5-6).

Point Four of the Seven Point Program asked that there be no diversion of the funds dedicated to education. Several bills affecting the Severance Tax were introduced but none were presented for final passage. The fifth point of the Legislative Program requested that there not be any change in teacher benefits. No

bills affecting these benefits were introduced. Point Six of the Seven Point Program asked for the dedication of Tidelands revenue to education. The Legislature did not act on this feeling that it was best to wait until title to these lands was cleared. Point Seven, asking for proper distribution of the Rockefeller Foundation Fund, was approved. House Bill 962 passed both Houses and provided that the surplus revenues in the Rockefeller Fund in the amount of \$2,500,000 be appropriated to the public school fund for the biennium 1954-56. The Chairman of the United School Committee in 1954 was C. J. Drost, President of the Louisiana School Boards Association (The Boardman, September, 1954:5-6).

In 1955 the United School Committee and the Louisiana School Boards Association met with additional success when the Legislature raised the per educable distribution to \$48.95 (The Boardman, September, 1955:2).

The 1956 Annual Convention of the Louisiana School Boards Association adopted two resolutions dealing with the financing of schools. The first favored an increase in the five mill maintenance tax to seven mills; the second resolution supported the United School Committee's Legislative Program which included the dedication of all Tidelands revenue to education (The Boardman, February, 1956:14). The Louisiana School Boards Association's resolutions met with both success and disappointment in the Legislature. The Legislature passed a bill, Act Number 629, which proposed the following constitutional amendment:

Proposes an amendment to Paragraphs Fourth and Fifth of Section Fifteen of Article XII of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana as amended by Act Number 407 of 1946 to be voted on in the General Election to be held in November, 1956.

Increases the maximum mills for special annual ad valorem maintenance taxes upon vote of the people from five to seven mills (The Boardman, September, 1956:41).

This Constitutional Amendment was approved by the voters on November 6, 1956 (The Boardman, December, 1956:18).

The 1956 Legislature adopted a new State Minimum Salary Schedule for Classroom Teachers (The Boardman, September, 1956:15).

Also, a new minimum salary schedule was adopted for school bus drivers. It was based on the length of the bus and the mileage traveled one-way (The Boardman, September, 1956:24).

However, the 1956 Legislature also passed Act Number 128 which repealed the dedication of revenues from Tidelands as provided for in Acts Eight and Seventy-Four of 1954.

In 1957 the Annual Convention of the Louisiana School Boards Association approved two resolutions of importance to education in Louisiana. The first resolution advocated dedicated revenues for education. This was a result of the loss of dedicated revenues from Tidelands and a failure to fully implement the salary schedule provided for in Acts Three and 112 of the 1956 Legislature (The Boardman, March, 1957:10). The second resolution backed the formation of the Louisiana Education Research Association (The Boardman, March, 1957:11).

The recommendations adopted by the United School Committee on April 1, 1957 supported, among others, the resolution of the Association's 1957 Annual Convention regarding dedicated revenues.

The recommendations were as follows:

(1) That all present funds for public elementary and secondary education be maintained and expanded to meet the needs annually. That further school funds be made available for the employment of additional necessary personnel and other facilities to provide adequate educational opportunities for all the increased number of Louisiana school children.

(2) That the Legislature of the State of Louisiana in the Fiscal Session of 1957 be requested and urged to appropriate sufficient funds to fully implement on a full nine-month basis Act Number Three of 1956 (the Minimum Salary Schedule for Teachers) and Act Number 112 of 1956 (the Salary Schedule for Bus Operators).

(3) That there be no reduction in rates of the present taxes which support public education or any revenue sources from which public school funds are derived; that there be no diversion of public school funds as presently derived from taxes dedicated to the public school system, and that additional dedicated revenues be made available for the support of public education.

(4) That there shall be preserved in their present form laws providing for teacher tenure, for sick, sabbatical, maternity, and military leave.

(5) That there shall be preserved in their present form all retirement systems for school personnel now in operation, and that these systems must continue to be maintained on a sound and funded basis according to recommendations of the actuaries.

(6) That all revenues to be derived from severance products from the Louisiana Tidelands shall be dedicated by constitutional amendment to public education in Louisiana.

(7) That the State Legislature take appropriate action for such provisions as are necessary in making correct application and division of funds derived from the Rockefeller Foundation subject to the provisions of the deed accepted by the State of Louisiana (The Boardman, April, 1957:1).

As a result the 1957 Legislature made provisions for additional funds to implement the 1956 Salary Schedules for Teachers and Bus Drivers (The Boardman, September, 1957:28). Full implementation of these salary schedules, however, was not reached.

The 1958 Annual Convention of the Louisiana School Boards Association adopted a resolution asking the Louisiana Education Research Association to research the feasibility of dedicating gas gathering tax revenues to education and eliminating the school tax exemption for new industries (The Boardman, January-February, 1958:14). The 1958 Louisiana Legislature then approved an increase of one-cent per thousand cubic feet on the gas gathering tax which was dedicated to the schools (The Boardman, September, 1958:9). The gas gathering tax, however, was declared unconstitutional by the Louisiana Supreme Court on November 9, 1959 (Shipp, Hilton, and Gremillion, 1966:16). In the interim the Louisiana Legislature substituted a two-cent per thousand cubic feet severance tax on gas, raising the rate from .3 percent to 2.3 percent, during the Extra Session of November, 1958. The two-cent increase was due to expire on August 1, 1960 but the 1960 Legislature extended it for a period of four years. In 1964 the Louisiana Legislature, in its General Session, extended the tax indefinitely (Shipp, Hilton, and Gremillion, 1966:16-17).

In 1959 the Delegates to the Annual Convention of the Louisiana School Boards Association approved two resolutions dealing with the financing of public education in Louisiana. Resolution Number Six supported full implementation of the 1956 Salary Schedule and Resolution Number Seven supported use of the some \$59 million the State had received from the leasing of state-owned oil lands for the financing of education in Louisiana (The Boardman, February-March, 1959:13-14). In addition the United School Committee, in conjunction with the Louisiana School Boards Association, recommended the following Six Point Legislative Program:

(1) That educational needs be placed first on the appropriation calendar.

(2) That all present funds provided for public elementary and secondary education be maintained and expanded to meet the needs annually. That further school funds be made available for the employment of additional necessary personnel and other facilities to provide adequate educational opportunities for all the increased number of Louisiana school children.

(3) That there be no reduction in rates of the present taxes which support public education or any revenue sources from which public school funds are derived; that there be no diversion of public school funds as presently derived from taxes dedicated to the public school system.

(4) That the 1959 Fiscal Session of the Legislature be urged to appropriate sufficient funds to implement Act Three and Act 112 of 1956.

(5) That the 1959 Fiscal Session of the Legislature be urged to take no action that would in any way adversely affect the benefit rights of teachers or the actuarial soundness of the Louisiana Teachers' Retirement System.

(6) That the Legislature of Louisiana provide sufficient financial support for the public institutions of higher education to enable these institutions to properly care for the large enrollments now existing and the impending increases in the immediate future, and to provide salaries for college instructional personnel commensurate with their training and worth to the State of Louisiana (The Boardman, April, 1959:2-3).

Through the efforts of the Association and the United School Committee a bill (House Bill Number 144) was passed for full implementation of the 1956 Salary Schedule. However, it became evident that this bill would be vetoed. As a result House Bill 235, after being amended, was approved and became Act 95 of 1959 and insured seventy-five percent implementation of the 1956 Salary Schedule. Act 127 of 1959 provided for the allocation and distribution of revenues that were derived from the leasing of the State's mineral lands. It provided for full implementation of the 1956 Salary Schedule if the revenue reached \$42 million. Act 144 of 1959 provided for the estimated increase in school enrollment (The Boardman, June, 1959:14-15).

In 1962 the Louisiana School Boards Association met with limited success in the regular session of the Louisiana Legislature. C. J. Drost and James D. Prescott (The Boardman, September, 1962:9) said that

. . . although the Association's Legislative Committee was successful in many ways during the session--defeating or amending undesirable measures and passing desirable ones--we were never able to sell the Legislature on the true needs of education.

Drost and Prescott (The Boardman, September, 1962:7) also said that

. . . when the Legislature convened, the major concern to all members was the severe shortage of State funds. Legislators were confronted with a deficit in the General and Public School Funds of about \$70 million for the 1961-62 fiscal year. As a result, the first several acts adopted were designed to alleviate the State's financial condition. Act Two created the Louisiana Fiscal Authority with authorization to issue up to \$60 million in bonds. School boards were granted permission by Act Three to borrow up to the unpaid allocations of State funds for 1961-62 in order to complete the school year (The LSBA assisted in the passage of this Act). Acts Four, Five, Six and Seven transferred money from various sources to the General Fund and to the Public School Fund. The net result of these measures was to relieve, temporarily at least, the critical shortage of State revenues.

According to Drost and Prescott (The Boardman, September, 1962:7) the most important act adopted during the 1962 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana was the general appropriations bill--Act Seventy-Five. It provided \$162.3 million for educable and equalization distributions and another \$39 million for other educational needs. These amounts, however, were much less than the amounts requested by the State Board of Education based on the needs of the various parish and city school boards for 1962-63. "In spite of many efforts to increase these appropriations, the figures remained virtually unchanged throughout the sessions" (The Boardman, September, 1962:7). As a result parishes received less money per pupil from the State for the 1962-63 school year than they received for the 1961-62 school year.

"The importance of Act Seventy-Five, however, extended far beyond the amounts of money specified for public education." (The Boardman, September, 1962:7). The Legislature, for the first time, took over direct control of the distribution of educable and equalization funds and allocated these funds parish-by-parish in the appropriations bill. Previously the Legislature appropriated the total amount of money needed and the State Board of Education made the allocations. "The Louisiana School Boards Association considered the action undesirable but was not able to convince the Legislature otherwise" (The Boardman, September, 1962:7). In addition Act Seventy-Five also wrote into law the formula for distribution. When it was introduced the formula would have produced many inequities among the parishes, however, the Legislative Committee of the Louisiana School Boards Association was successful in having the Legislature accept and utilize the identical formula previously used by the State Board of Education (The Boardman, September, 1962:8). Appropriations for special programs were also included in Act Seventy-Five. No appropriations were increased and some were decreased. The reimbursement for school lunches was cut from twelve cents to nine cents.

A proposal to change the Teachers' Tenure Law was also introduced in the 1962 Legislature. The Louisiana Teachers' Association and the Louisiana School Boards Association had agreed on this proposal. The proposal was passed by the Senate but met

opposition in the House. Several amendments were adopted which greatly altered the bill and it was returned to the calendar and was not acted upon for the rest of the session (The Boardman, September, 1962:9).

In 1963 the Louisiana School Boards Association presented its own Legislative Program for the first time. It was a five point program and included the following:

(1) That the Louisiana Legislature in its Fiscal Session appropriate sufficient funds so that each school board in Louisiana can operate on a 180-day school session for 1963-64 designed to meet the educational needs of the children without having to resort to undesirable educational practices such as increased pupil-teacher ratios, reduction of materials of instruction, reduction of essential staff and reduction or elimination of programs.

(2) That the Minimum Foundation Program be retained as the basis for the distribution of State funds to public education and that the appropriations for this Program be placed on a current basis for 1963-64 without creating new and additional problems for school boards with declining populations.

(3) That the Louisiana Legislature amend Act 147 of 1962 making school approval by the State Board of Education, upon recommendations of the State Department of Education, a necessary qualification for receipt of State funds for the education of children in private nonsectarian elementary and secondary schools.

(4) That the Louisiana Legislature take no action which would adversely affect the legal control of the public schools now vested in the State Board of Education, the local parish and city school boards, and the State Department of Education.

(5) That the Congress of the United States amend the regulations governing social security eligibility and benefits to include school board

employees in Louisiana who failed to join State retirement systems while eligible (The Boardman, April, 1963:7).

The 1963 Legislative Program of the Association met with considerable success in the Legislature.

The 1963 Appropriations Bill--Act Five--provided for an increase of approximately \$17 million in State Aid for the public schools for 1963-64. Almost fourteen million dollars of this amount was appropriated for the Minimum Foundation Program (The Boardman, September, 1963:2).

This amount was only \$1.2 million less than the amount requested by the State Board of Education. Although the Association was against it, the Legislature, for the second consecutive year, retained direct control over the distribution of educable and equalization funds by allocating these funds on a parish by parish basis. The Association felt these funds should be distributed by the State Board of Education.

On March 3, 1964, Louisiana voters approved a Louisiana School Boards Association sponsored amendment to the Constitution which expanded the authority of school boards in the use of bond issue proceeds (The Boardman, February-March, 1964:2).

Constitutional Amendment Number One permitted local boards to legally spend bond issue money for the improvement of school sites, including the construction of streets and sidewalks next to schools. The amendment also removed the doubt which existed concerning the constitutionality of using bond issue money for the construction or improvement of any facility which was not in every sense a school building, such as stadiums, tracks, auditoriums, and covered sidewalks. The Louisiana School Boards Association had proposed

this to the 1963 Legislature and as a result it was placed on the ballot as a constitutional amendment.

The 1964 Annual Convention of the Louisiana School Boards Association adopted several resolutions concerning education to be presented during the 1964 Session of the Louisiana Legislature (The Boardman, February-March, 1964:21-34). They are as follows:

1. Resolution Two requested the Legislature to re-enact the Compulsory School Attendance Law.
2. Resolution Three requested that the Legislature adopt and provide sufficient funds to implement the proposed United School Committee Salary Schedules and that additional funds be appropriated to meet all the needs of public elementary and secondary education.
3. Resolution Four requested that the Legislature put into law the changes in the Tenure System proposed by the Louisiana School Boards Association.
4. Resolution Thirteen asked the Legislature to make permanent the policy of placing appropriations for the Minimum Foundation Program on a current basis and to include teacher salary increments in the current-basis-appropriations.
5. Resolution Eighteen requested that distribution of all school funds be placed on a current basis.
6. Resolution Nineteen requested that the Legislature exclude all school taxes from tax exemptions on a new industry construction and major remodeling granting ten year exemptions.

7. Emergency Resolution One put the Louisiana School Boards Association on record as opposed to any plan of public school financing that would shift any part of the Minimum Foundation Cost Program from the State level to the local level.

8. Emergency Resolution Two requested that the percentage charged by the parish sheriffs' offices for the collection of school and other ad valorem taxes be changed to reflect only the actual cost of collecting these taxes.

The Louisiana School Boards Association met with both success and failure in the Legislature concerning their proposals (The Boardman, September, 1964:9-11). The appropriation for the needs of education was suitable but it did not include the funds required for the implementation of the United School Committee salary schedules. House Bill Number 370 would have required local school boards to implement a new schedule for as long as there was money available. It would have required the local school boards to pay a salary schedule even though the legislature failed to provide the necessary funds. The Association opposed this bill and it was defeated in Committee. There was no tampering with the Minimum Foundation Program and several bills that would have mandated costs to local schools without funds being provided were amended, after the position of the Association was explained, to eliminate any of these non-funded mandated costs. The Compulsory School Attendance Law was passed and became Act Number 109 of 1964. No action was taken on a bill to exclude school taxes from the ten year tax exemption

granted to industries and the Association was unable to introduce any legislation to modify the Teacher's Tenure Law. In addition no action was taken to reduce the commissions paid to the Sheriffs' Offices for collecting ad valorem taxes (The Boardman, September, 1964:9-11).

It was during this Session of the Louisiana Legislature that the Louisiana School Boards Association's Legislative Bulletin was started. It is sent to all Association members during a legislative session to keep them abreast of the proceedings in the State Legislature (The Boardman, June, 1964:11).

Following the 1964 Session of the Legislature a meeting with Governor John J. McKeithen was held concerning the lack of action taken regarding raises for school employees. Attending the meeting were James D. Prescott, Executive Secretary, Louisiana School Boards Association; William J. Dodd, State Superintendent of Education; Senator B. B. "Sixty" Rayburn, chairman, Senate Finance Committee; and Representative Robert J. Munson, chairman, House Appropriations Committee. At this meeting Governor McKeithen announced plans for a special session of the Legislature for the purpose of increasing teachers' and other school employees' salaries. The salary schedules proposed by the United School Committee and backed by the Louisiana School Boards Association required about fifty million dollars for full implementation (The Boardman, September, 1964:1).

Governor McKeithen called for a special session of the Legislature in November of 1964 (The Boardman, November, 1964:8). During the special session appropriations (Act Number Twenty-Two) were made to implement for the second half of the 1964-65 school year one-half of the increase in the minimum salary schedule for teachers and one-half of the increase in the salary schedule for school bus operators and corresponding adjustments in the salaries of all other school employees. The total appropriation came to \$11,042,691.56 (The Boardman, April, 1965:9). Acts Twenty-Seven and Twenty-Eight of the special session approved the new teachers' and school bus drivers' salary schedules (The Boardman, April, 1965:10-11).

In 1965 the Louisiana School Boards Association's Legislative Committee adopted the following eight point legislative program:

(1) That the Louisiana Legislature in 1965 appropriate sufficient funds to meet satisfactorily all the needs of public elementary and secondary education, including funds required for full implementation of Acts Twenty-Seven and Twenty-Eight of 1964.

(2) That the Minimum Foundation Program be retained as the basis for distribution of State funds to public education and that the appropriations for this Program be placed on a current basis for 1965-66.

(3) That the Louisiana Legislature amend Act Twenty-Eight of 1964, eliminating the provision which places an arbitrary limit on salary increases (\$1,000) for persons who are not full-time classroom teachers.

(4) That the 1965 Louisiana Legislature consider carefully any legislation proposed during this Fiscal Session involving mandated costs to local school boards and that sufficient funds be provided to pay the increased costs involved whenever the Legislature deems it necessary to enact such legislation.

(5) That provisions be made by the Louisiana Legislature for committee hearings on any and all bills or resolutions that may be introduced requesting permission to sue any parish or city school board on a tort action, and that any such bills or resolutions adopted by the Legislature contain a provision that the State of Louisiana would assume the responsibility for payment of any judgement obtained therein.

(6) That the Louisiana Legislature repeal any and all provisions for exemptions from school taxes for new industries and that permission be given to any existing industry now enjoying ten-year industrial tax exemptions to waive such exemptions in the case of school taxes.

(7) That no action be taken by the Louisiana Legislature which would adversely affect the legal control of public schools now vested in the State Board of Education, the local parish and city school boards, and the State Department of Education.

(8) That the Louisiana Legislature recognize that local school boards will lose funds through non-compliance with Federal regulations and that steps be taken to make up for the loss of such funds (The Boardman, May, 1965:3-4).

The Louisiana School Boards Association's 1965 Legislative Program met with success in the 1965 Legislature. James D. Prescott, Executive-Secretary of the Association, was successful in asking the Senate Finance Committee to restore \$3 million of the \$3.3 million that had been cut in school equalization funds (The Boardman, June, 1965:2). Sufficient appropriations were made to insure fifty percent implementations of Acts Twenty-Seven and

Twenty-Eight of 1964. Section two of Act Twenty-Eight of the 1964 Special Session was repealed. This was the section of the law which prohibited a person who was not a full-time classroom teacher from receiving a pay increase of over \$1,000 (The Boardman, September, 1965:30).

In 1966 the United School Committee and the Louisiana School Boards Association were not able to increase the implementation of the 1964 Salary Schedule to more than the fifty percent the 1965 Legislature granted. Act Number 269 of 1966 authorized any parish school board not then authorized to levy a sales tax in excess of one-half percent to levy an additional one-half percent tax. Other bills increased retirement benefits and permitted school boards to pay for unused sick leave upon death or retirement up to forty-five days for teachers and up to twenty-five days for other employees. According to Fulton J. Bacon (The Boardman, September, 1966:4-5) the increase in the sales tax that local boards could levy was meant to help local school boards fully implement the 1964 salary schedules but this was successful in only twenty-two parishes.

The major accomplishments of the Louisiana School Boards Association (1967) included obtaining sufficient appropriations for full implementation of the 1964 salary schedules, maintaining the minimum hourly wage of \$1.25 for school employees, and continuing the policy of the State paying the employers' contribution to the retirement systems of school employees. Also, the Minimum

Foundation Program was retained as the basis for distribution of State funds and appropriations for this program continued on a current basis. The program also included the amending of Act 167 of 1966 which prohibited school boards from reducing the length of bus routes, raising the per diem compensation of school board members from \$30 to \$40, and providing sufficient monies to pay for costs mandated to local school boards (The Boardman, April, 1967:13).

As a result of this legislative program the 1967 Louisiana Legislature appropriated enough funds to fully implement the 1964 salary schedules, provided full retirement benefits for school lunch employees, and raised the per diem of school board members to \$40. While it put a five year restriction on the changing of the length of bus routes and bus sizes, it provided for the inclusion in State funds for transportation any costs that might be incurred by school boards in complying with this provision (The Boardman, September, 1967:34-36).

The 1968 Convention of the Louisiana School Boards Association adopted the following resolutions for consideration by the State Legislature. Resolution Two called for the State Legislature to amend the statewide minimum salary schedule so as to place greater emphasis on the salaries of beginning teachers thus inducing graduates of the teacher-training colleges of Louisiana to take teaching positions in Louisiana and not to go to other states. Resolution Seven called for more money to meet the rising demand for increased Adult Education. Resolution Nine called for the

Legislature to remove the prohibition against school systems initially employing maintenance, custodial, janitorial and other employees who are over fifty years of age by raising the maximum age to fifty-five years. Finally, Resolution Twelve called for the Legislature to amend the tenure statutes of Louisiana to require a three year probationary period on any promotions granted to tenure personnel before tenure is granted in the new position (The Boardman, March, 1968:46-53).

The 1968 Louisiana School Boards Association's Legislative Program met with considerable success in the State Legislature. Act Number 397 provided for a new minimum salary schedule for teachers and bus drivers and pay increases for all non-professional employees not covered by the teachers' or bus drivers' schedules. The minimum salary for a teacher with a Bachelor's degree was raised to \$6,000. Act Number 451 changed the procedure for bond and tax elections making it easier and less complicated to get on the ballot; Acts Number 282 and 283 established student and adult driver education classes in every parish and Acts Number 258 and 643 allowed the initial employment of school bus drivers and janitors, custodians, and maintenance employees up to age fifty-five (The Boardman, September, 1968:15-26). There was one major drawback, however, the money to implement the new salary schedule was not available and the 1964 salary schedule remained in effect (The Boardman, November, 1968:1).

In 1970 the Louisiana School Boards Association met with its major success in the Legislature. The 1970 Convention of the Association called for full implementation of the 1968 minimum salary schedule, for funds for paying school secretaries' salaries, and for funds to be provided for mandated costs. The 1970 Legislature passed a three-bill tax package which increased taxes on sales, cigarettes, and liquor and provided \$64 million for salary raises for all employees of public elementary and secondary schools. This tax package broke a twenty year stalemate in new tax legislation in Louisiana. The lobby that accomplished this was made up of labor and education and included the Louisiana School Boards Association (The Boardman, September, 1970:1).

The funds were used to implement the statewide teachers' salary schedule, the statewide bus operators' salary schedule, and the formula for other school employees outlined in Act 397 of 1968 on a three-fourths basis (The Boardman, November, 1970:6).

The 1971 Louisiana School Boards Association's Legislative Program called for full implementation of the 1968 minimum salary schedule for all school employees, retaining the Minimum Foundation Program as the Basis for distribution of State funds to public education, funding of an in-service program for teachers and the appropriation of funds to cover any costs mandated to local boards. As a result the 1971 Louisiana Legislature appropriated an additional \$18 million for the full implementation of the 1968 salary schedule as established by Act 397 of 1968 (The Boardman,

September, 1971:38-39). This additional money, however, was a temporary one year solution to the problem of salaries for school employees. When the 1972 Legislature adopted the General Appropriations Bill of 1972, the appropriation for education was cut. Association President George Dupuis and Executive-Secretary James D. Prescott then met with Governor Edwin Edwards on numerous occasions and obtained his help in getting an additional \$4.2 million for education through Act 113 of 1972, which was a supplementary appropriations bill. This enabled the schools of Louisiana to operate on the same basis as the previous school year (The Boardman, June, 1972:1). During the Special Session of the Legislature in August of 1972 the Association was effective in helping local school boards to receive money from revenue sharing (The Boardman, March, 1973:33).

Chapter 6

PRESENT STATUS OF THE LOUISIANA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

ORGANIZATION

Today the Louisiana School Boards Association is organized around two standing committees, an Executive Committee and a Legislative Committee, and a Board of Directors. The Publicity Committee was eliminated by a constitutional amendment approved by the 1973 Annual Convention of the Association (The Boardman, March, 1973:50). The Executive Committee consists of the President, the First Vice-President, the Second Vice-President, and the Executive Secretary-Treasurer. The Legislative Committee is appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee (Appendix A, Constitution Four, Article IX).

The Board of Directors consists of twelve members, one from each of the eight Congressional Districts, the active President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, and the immediate Past President (Appendix A, Constitution Four, Article IX). The Directors from each of the Congressional Districts are appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee (Appendix A, Constitution Four, ~~By-Laws~~: Article IV, Section Four).

The majority of the work of the Association is done through these committees. When the need arises special ad hoc study committees are appointed by the President. These committees are used to study immediate problems. Two examples of the ad hoc committees are the School Finance Committee and the Committee on Insurance (Personal Interview, James D. Prescott, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, August 23, 1973).

MEMBERSHIP

At present all local school boards and board members in the State of Louisiana are members of the Louisiana School Boards Association. The total membership from the sixty-six school boards is 685 school board members. In 1966 there were sixty-six school boards and 715 school board positions but reapportionment has reduced the number of positions to the present 685 (Personal Interview, Art Greene, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, May 24, 1973). There are now fifty-seven black school board members in the State which constitute 8.32 percent of the Association's membership and twenty-eight women who constitute four percent of the total membership. Since the lowering of the voting age to eighteen, five people between the ages of eighteen and twenty-three have been elected to school boards in the State (Personal Interview, Art Greene, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, May 24, 1973).

FINANCES

The majority of the financial support of the Louisiana School Boards Association comes from the annual dues paid by the member boards. The present dues scale is as follows (Dues Scale, 1972-1973):

<u>Category</u>	<u>Maximum Dues</u>	<u>1972-73 Dues (100% As- sessment)</u>
1. Total Revenue Receipts of less than \$2 million:	\$1,000	\$1,000
2. Total Revenue Receipts of \$2 million or more but less than \$3 million:	\$1,500	\$1,500
3. Total Revenue Receipts of over \$3 million but less than \$5 million:	\$2,000	\$2,000
4. Total Revenue Receipts over \$5 million but less than \$20 million:	\$2,500	\$2,500
5. Total Revenue Receipts over \$20 million:	\$3,000	\$3,000

At present there is no board in category one (Personal Interview, James D. Prescott, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, April 18, 1973).

Other income is derived from advertising in The Boardman and Legislative Bulletins, exhibitors fees during the annual conventions, and interest on investments (Personal Interview, Art Greene, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, May 24, 1973). According to James D. Prescott

(Personal Interview, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, April 18, 1973) the member boards have been very cooperative whenever the Association has had to ask for a dues increase.

The Louisiana School Boards Association has the largest budget of the state school boards associations in the Southern Region. At present the annual budget is \$165,000 while Texas' is \$130,000, Georgia's \$121,000 and no other state's in the Southern Region is over \$100,000 (Personal Interview, James D. Prescott, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, April 18, 1973).

STAFF

The present staff of the Louisiana School Boards Association includes an Executive-Secretary-Treasurer, an Assistant Executive-Secretary-Treasurer and three secretaries. According to James D. Prescott (Personal Interview, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, April 18, 1973) this staff is sufficient for the present in terms of the service that the Association renders and the objectives it has. In addition it would be impossible to expand the present staff because of the lack of additional finances and resources. Plans are being made, however, for an expansion of the staff by hiring part-time consultants (Personal Interview, James D. Prescott, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, April 18, 1973). Mr. Prescott said that more and more of the experienced school administrators, superintendents, principals, and supervisors in Louisiana are retiring earlier than in the past

and as a result there is now appearing a larger and larger pool of talent that is not being utilized. These people would be hired by the Association and will be made available to any school system in the State to help local school systems solve problems in any area of education.

FACILITIES

The present executive office of the Louisiana School Boards Association is located at 2655 Plank Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana in Room 104 of the Ourso Building. The Association moved to this office in October of 1969. At that time there were four people on the staff and the office space was designed for six (Personal Interview, James D. Prescott, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, April 18, 1973). According to Mr. Prescott, however, the need for workspace was underestimated and the Association is now handicapped as far as being able to buy newer, larger, and more efficient office equipment. For the present time, however, Mr. Prescott feels that the office space is adequate for the Association's needs.

PRESENT PROBLEMS AND GOALS OF THE LOUISIANA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

According to James D. Prescott (Personal Interview, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, April 18, 1973) and Art Greene (Personal Interview, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, May 24, 1973) the present problems of the Louisiana School Boards Association lie in three areas: improving

the image of public education in the State; helping school board members, especially new school board members, to become better acquainted with their duties; and finally improving the area of school finances.

Mr. Prescott (Personal Interview, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, April 18, 1973) feels that since there have been so many people saying so many critical things about public education that a lot of people have gotten the idea that nothing is being done in education that is very good. Mr. Prescott feels that this is not true and the Louisiana School Boards Association is attempting to publicize the good aspects of public education. To accomplish this the Association has included in its workshop sessions on public relations by professional personnel in order to help school systems improve their image at the local level.

An important problem confronting the Louisiana School Boards Association at this time (1973) is that approximately thirty percent of the membership (211 out of 685 members) are first year members (Personal Interview, James D. Prescott, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, April 18, 1973). According to Mr. Prescott this has given the Association added responsibility to try to do what it can to assist these new members to perform better in their tasks as school board members. To accomplish this the Association has completed a series of regional school board member workshops, all of which had to do with the actions of dealing with the duties of school board members. The workshop included a film and instructional

materials that went with the film. Future plans include using this film and instructional materials with individual local boards, not just on the regional level. Mr. Prescott stated that the problem of inservice training has always been with the Association but it is even greater now because of the large number of new members.

According to Art Greene (Personal Interview, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, May 24, 1963) this high percentage of new board members has created another problem; that of finding people who have the leadership qualities to take an active part in the Association on a statewide level. Mr. Greene stated that even most of those who are considered old members have been members for only four years and it is from these people future committee members, directors, and officers will come.

In addition to public relations and new school board member orientation the third major problem facing the Louisiana School Boards Association at the present time is school finance. This is not a new problem. A check of the minutes of the annual conventions of the Association from 1938 to the present revealed that the problem of school finances has always been one of the major concerns of the Louisiana School Boards Association. Recently additional problems have come to the surface in the area of school finance (Personal Interview, James D. Prescott, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, April 18, 1973). Recent problems include finding an equitable means of distributing revenue sharing funds, and recent court decisions on

the constitutionality of ad valorem property taxes. Also, in Louisiana, what is constitutionally desirable and acceptable in regards to the new constitution being prepared by the constitutional convention at present?

One additional problem facing the Association is that of Career Education. According to Mr. Prescott (Personal Interview, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, April 18, 1973) keeping Career Education in its proper perspective and not letting it go off on a tangent is a problem.

Chapter 7

SUMMARY

The purpose of this study was to trace the background, development, growth, influence, and present status of the Louisiana School Boards Association during the period 1938 through January, 1973. Specific questions to be answered by the study and the answers to these questions are as follows:

1. What were some of the more significant motivating forces behind the initiation of the Louisiana School Boards Association?

The idea of forming a statewide organization of school board members was conceived by Mr. Lewis P. Roy of Marksville, Louisiana in 1937. Mr. Roy received strong support for the idea from State Superintendent of Schools, T. H. Harris. Mr. Roy, with the help of the Assistant State Superintendent of Schools, Dr. John Foote, formulated plans for the organization. As a result the Organizational Meeting and First Annual Convention of the Louisiana School Boards Association was held in the Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana on January 20 and 21, 1938.

2. What major obstacles has the Louisiana School Boards Association had to overcome in terms of the following?

- A. Organization: The activities of the Association are organized around committees. The first Constitution of the

Association called for two committees, an Executive Committee composed of the officers, and an Advisory Committee composed of one member from each of the eight Congressional Districts in the State. In 1940 a Legislative Committee was added by the delegates to the Annual Convention.

The adoption of a new constitution by the Association in 1952 changed the committee structure of the Louisiana School Boards Association. The new constitution called for three standing committees, an Executive Committee, a Board of Directors which replaced the Advisory Committee, and a Publicity Committee. The Publicity Committee was removed by a constitutional amendment during the 1973 Annual Convention of the Association. Any additional committees are appointed by the President and/or the Executive Committee. These include the Legislative Committee and special ad hoc study committees which are used to study important, immediate problems the Association may face.

B. Membership: There have been no major problems as far as membership in the Louisiana School Boards Association. In the thirty-five years since its organization the Association has had only three instances when it did not have 100 percent membership and only one local board was involved in each case. Non-member boards included the East Carroll Parish School Board in 1939 and 1940, the Rapides Parish School Board in 1941, and the Orleans Parish School Board from 1961 to 1966.

C. Finances: The money needed to support the Louisiana School Boards Association has come mainly from the member boards themselves. The original dues were \$25 per year per board and at present a sliding dues scale (from \$1,000 to \$3,000) is used based on the yearly budget of the member boards. According to James D. Prescott the membership has been very cooperative in providing the Association with needed dues increases. The Association now has the highest annual budget of the state associations in the Southern Region. Additional revenues come from advertisements in The Boardman, interest on investments, and exhibitor fees at the annual conventions.

D. Staff: The staff of the Louisiana School Boards Association has increased from one, Executive-Secretary Fred G. Thatcher, in 1938 to the present staff of five. Plans are being made to increase the size of the staff by hiring part-time consultants to help on special problems.

E. Facilities: The facilities of the Louisiana School Boards Association have progressed from being nonexistent in 1938 to the present facilities on Plank Road. The Plank Road facilities are adequate for the present needs of the Association but may be not adequate for the future.

3. What factors were responsible for the transition of the Louisiana School Boards Association from a part-time organization in 1938 to a full-time organization in 1947?

The main factor responsible for the transition of the Louisiana School Boards Association from a part-time organization to a full-time organization was the belief that the Association could only exert maximum influence on education in the State if it had a full-time Executive-Secretary to keep in constant contact with whatever was going on in education in the State of Louisiana.

4. What influence did the Louisiana School Boards Association exert on the formation of the National School Boards Association?

In November of 1940 a meeting was held in Knoxville, Tennessee in order to form a National Association of School Board Members. Louisiana was represented by Lewis P. Roy with C. T. Bienvenu acting as an alternate representative. The national association was started in 1940 and met again in 1941, but went into dormancy because of World War II. After the war a meeting was called in Illinois to reactivate the National Association. Fred G. Thatcher and John J. Doles represented the Louisiana School Boards Association. Mr. Thatcher was elected Vice-President of the National School Boards Association and was also appointed Chairman of the Constitutional Committee.

5. What has been and is currently the degree of participation of the Louisiana School Boards Association in the National School Boards Association?

The Louisiana School Boards Association has been represented at every convention of the National School Boards Association and

has taken an active part in the National Association as officers, directors, convention speakers, and committee chairmen.

6. What influence has the Louisiana School Boards Association had on education in Louisiana?

The major influence of the Louisiana School Boards Association on education in Louisiana has been that it has professionalized the attitudes of school board members by helping them to become policy makers rather than executors. The Association has accomplished this through its conventions, workshops, and publications. The Association's second influence on education has been its successful lobbying in behalf of education in the State Legislature. The Association has also been effective in carrying local problems before the State Legislature and State Board of Education.

7. What relationship has the Louisiana School Boards Association had with other education groups in the State?

Cooperation with all other educational organizations in the State is one of the six objectives of the Association enumerated in its Constitution.

Activities that have been directed toward this objective include membership in the United School Committee, the Louisiana Commission on Teacher Education and Professional Standards, the Louisiana Advisory Committee on Teacher Education and Certification, and the Louisiana Guidance Council. In addition, the President and Executive-Secretary meet frequently with superintendents both at the State and district levels and are called upon each year to participate in numerous other meetings of educational and non-educational groups (The Boardman, February-March, 1964:14-15).

8. What has been the position of the Louisiana School Boards Association on significant education and non-education oriented Legislation?

The Louisiana School Boards Association has been very influential on legislation affecting education in the State of Louisiana. It has sponsored and supported legislation beneficial to education and has successfully opposed detrimental legislation. The Association has successfully supported legislation in such areas as increased salaries for teachers and other school employees, the dedication of certain tax revenues to education, improvement of the retirement systems, teacher tenure, compulsory school laws, and other areas of education.

9. What are the more important problems concerning the Louisiana School Boards Association at the present time?

There are three major problem areas that are now being faced by the Louisiana School Boards Association. These include improving the public image of education in Louisiana, helping the many new school board members to become better acquainted with their duties, and improving the financing of public education in Louisiana.

In summary the Louisiana School Boards Association has grown from an idea in 1937 to one of the most influential, active, and effective educational organizations in the State. It has helped school board members to perform their duties better; it has successfully lobbied for better financial support for public schools; it has helped to set standards for better teaching, and in general has served education well in Louisiana.

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APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A

CONSTITUTIONS AND MAJOR AMENDMENTS

CONSTITUTION ONE

Proposed Constitution and By-Laws

The Louisiana Parish School Board Members Association.

ARTICLE I

The name of this organization shall be "The Louisiana Parish School Board Members Association."

ARTICLE II

Its membership shall be composed of the regularly elected or appointed members of the Parish School Boards.

ARTICLE III

Its purpose shall be to advance the Public School interests of Louisiana.

ARTICLE IV

The officers of the organization shall be a President, Vice-President and a Secretary-Treasurer. These officers shall be elected annually, at the close of the last business session.

ARTICLE V

Section I.

The President shall preside at all meetings, and shall perform such other duties as are generally required of presiding officers.

Section II.

The Vice-President shall serve in the absence of the President, and shall be ready at all times to serve on Committees when called upon.

Section III.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep the record of the Association, and attend to all necessary correspondence. He shall also be the custodian of all funds of the Association. All disbursements shall be made by warrant, signed by the Secretary-Treasurer, and countersigned by the President. He shall submit an annual report to the Association of all receipts and expenditures.

ARTICLE VI

There shall be an Advisory Committee, composed of one Member from each Congressional District of the State. This committee shall be appointed by the incoming President and shall serve through the following Annual Convention. The Advisory Committee shall be subject to the call of the President, and shall when called upon, act in an Advisory capacity with the officers of the Association.

ARTICLE VII

The Association shall hold annual meetings, the time of such meetings to be selected by the officers of the Association and the Advisory Committee.

ARTICLE VIII

Each Parish School Board shall pay into the Treasury of the Association the sum of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) annually.

CONSTITUTION TWO

Proposed Constitution and By-Laws

Louisiana School Board Association

ARTICLE I

The name of this organization shall be "Louisiana School Board Association."

ARTICLE II

Its membership shall be composed of the regularly elected or appointed members of the Parish School Boards.

ARTICLE III

Its purpose shall be to advance the Public School interests of Louisiana.

ARTICLE IV

The officers of the organization shall be a President, Vice-President, and a Secretary-Treasurer. These officers shall be elected annually at the close of the last business session.

ARTICLE V

Section I.

The President shall preside at all meetings and shall perform such other duties as are generally required of presiding officers.

Section II.

The Vice-President shall serve in the absence of the President and shall be ready at all times to serve on Committees when called upon.

Section III.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep the records of the Association and attend to all necessary correspondence. He shall also be custodian of all funds of the Association, and shall furnish satisfactory bond in favor of the Louisiana School Board Association in an amount not less than One Thousand & No/100 (\$1,000.00) Dollars, premiums on same to be paid by the Association. All disbursements shall be made by warrant, signed by the Secretary-Treasurer, and countersigned by the President. He shall submit an annual report to the Association of all receipts and expenditures.

ARTICLE VI

There shall be an Advisory Committee composed of one Member from each Congressional District of the State. This Committee shall be appointed by the incoming President and shall serve through the following Annual Convention. The Advisory Committee shall be subject to the call of the President, and shall, when called upon, act in an Advisory capacity with the officers of the Association.

ARTICLE VII

The Association shall hold annual meetings, the time of such meetings to be selected by the officers of the Association and the Advisory Committee.

ARTICLE VIII

Each Parish School Board desiring membership in the Association shall pay into the Treasury of the Association the sum of twenty-five & No/100 (\$25.00) Dollars annually.

CONSTITUTION THREE

Constitution

Louisiana School Board Association.

ARTICLE I

The name of this organization shall be "Louisiana School Boards Association."

ARTICLE II

Its membership shall be composed of the regularly elected or appointed members of the Parish School Boards.

ARTICLE III

Its purpose shall be to advance the Public School interests of Louisiana.

ARTICLE IV

The officers of the organization shall be a President, Vice-President, and a Secretary-Treasurer. These officers shall be elected annually at the close of the last business session.

ARTICLE V

Section I.

The President shall preside at all meetings and shall perform such other duties as are generally required of presiding officers.

Section II.

The Vice-President shall serve in the absence of the President and shall be ready at all times to serve on Committees when called upon.

Section III.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep the records of the Association and attend to all necessary correspondence. He shall also

be custodian of all funds of the Association, and shall furnish satisfactory bond in favor of the Louisiana School Boards Association in an amount not less than One Thousand & No/100 (\$1,000.00) Dollars, premiums on same to be paid by the Association. All disbursements shall be made by warrant, signed by the Secretary-Treasurer, and countersigned by the President. He shall submit an annual report to the Association of all receipts and expenditures.

ARTICLE VI

There shall be an Advisory Committee composed of one Member from each Congressional District of the State. This Committee shall be appointed by the incoming President and shall serve through the following Annual Convention. The Advisory Committee shall be subject to the call of the President, and shall, when called upon, act in an Advisory capacity with the officers of the Association.

ARTICLE VII

The Association shall hold annual meetings, the time of such meetings to be selected by the officers of the Association and the Advisory Committee.

ARTICLE VIII

Each Parish School Board desiring membership in the Association shall pay into the Treasury of the Association the sum of twenty-five & No/100 (\$25.00) Dollars annually.

I hereby certify the above to be a true and correct copy of the constitution of the Louisiana School Boards Association adopted at its second annual convention held in Shreveport, Louisiana on February 22, 1939.

(Signed) Fred G. Thatcher
Secretary-Treasurer

Amendments to the Constitution of the Louisiana School Boards Association

June 18, 1946

"BE IT RESOLVED, That the Constitution of the Louisiana School Boards Association be amended as follows:

"ARTICLE IV be changed to read as follows:

'The officers of the Association shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, and an Executive-Secretary. The Executive-Secretary shall also be the Treasurer. The President and the Vice-Presidents shall be elected annually during the business session of the convention and shall serve until their successors have been chosen and duly installed. The Executive-Secretary shall be elected by the Administrative Council to serve for a term of four years.'

"ARTICLE V, SECTION III be changed to read as follows:

'The Executive-Secretary shall be a full-time employee of the Association. He shall maintain an office, the location of which shall be approved by the Administrative Council. He shall keep all the records of the Association and attend to all necessary

correspondence. He shall be the custodian of all the funds of the Association and shall furnish bond in favor of the Louisiana School Boards Association in such amount as approved by the Administrative Council, premiums on the same to be paid by the Association. All disbursements shall be made by warrant, signed by the Executive-Secretary-Treasurer and countersigned by the President.

'He shall act as publisher and editor of a monthly journal to be issued by the Association under direction of the Administrative Council.'

'The salary and expenses of the Executive-Secretary shall be fixed by the Administrative Council.'

"ARTICLE VIII be changed to read as follows:

'Each school board desiring membership in the Association shall pay into the Treasury of the Association the sum of \$200.00 on January 1st of each year.'"

The above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of resolution offered by Mr. F. A. Keelan, Sabine Parish, seconded by Mrs. A. C. Alexander, Jefferson Parish, and duly carried.

(Signed) Fred G. Thatcher
Executive Secretary

CONSTITUTION FOUR

Constitution of the Louisiana School Boards Association

Adopted March 4, 1952

Article I

Name

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Louisiana School Boards Association, hereinafter called the Association.

Article II

Domicile

Section 1. The Association shall be domiciled in the City of Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana.

Article III

Purposes

Section 1. The objects and purposes of the Association shall be:

- a. To promote the cause of public education in Louisiana
- b. To provide the Legislature and other interested citizens with information incident to the passage of sound educational legislation
- c. To cooperate with all other educational agencies in the State in providing the finest educational program possible

- d. To stimulate in-service training for all school board members through a planned program of study conferences
- e. To collect and circulate information that will enable each board member and its citizens of Louisiana to be well-informed on the needs and progress of public education
- f. To present to the public, through its journal, pertinent information and research

Article IV

Membership

Section 1. There shall be three types of membership in the Association: active, associate, and honorary

Article V

Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Association shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, and an Executive-Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 2. The President and the First and Second Vice-Presidents shall be elected for one year terms by the membership of

the Association at the annual meeting and shall serve until their respective successors are elected and shall have qualified.

Section 3. The Executive-Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by the Board of Directors for a term of four years.

Section 4. Vacancies in office shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment of the President with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Article VI

Meetings

Section 1. There shall be at least one annual meeting of the Association in each calendar year.

Section 2. Special meetings shall be called by the Executive-Secretary on the request of the President with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Article VII

Quorum

Section 1. Active members present at the convention shall constitute a quorum.

Article VIII

Dues

Section 1. The Association shall have authority to levy dues as prescribed in the By-Laws.

Article IX

Committees

There shall be three standing committees of the Association:

Section 1. The Executive Committee consisting of the President, the First and Second Vice-Presidents, and the Executive-Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 2. A Legislative Committee appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. A Publicity Committee appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Article X

Board of Directors

Section 1. There shall be a Board of Directors consisting of 12 members--one from each of the eight Congressional Districts, the active President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, and the immediate past president.

Article XI

Voting Powers

Section 1. Each active member of the Association in attendance shall be entitled to one vote.

Article XII

Amendments

Section 1. Any active member of the Association may propose an amendment to the constitution by submitting the same in writing to the Executive-Secretary-Treasurer of the Association at least sixty days prior to the convention.

Section 2. Written notice of proposed amendments shall be given to all member boards at least thirty days prior to the day of the meeting.

Section 3. This constitution may be amended by a majority vote of members present at the State Convention provided the approved amendment is ratified by three-fourths of the parish and city school boards within four months after its approval by the convention.

Section 4. In cases of emergency so declared by the Board of Directors, this constitution may be amended by a majority vote of all members, said vote to be made by mailed ballot and provided the approved amendment is ratified

by three-fourths of the parish and city school boards within four months after its approval by a majority of the membership.

BY-LAWS

Article I. Fiscal Year

Section 1. The fiscal year of the Association shall be from January 1 to December 31.

Article II. Membership

Section 1. Any legally established parish or city school board in Louisiana may become a member of the Association by paying the membership fee stipulated.

Section 2. Each individual member of a participating parish or city school board becomes a member of the Association. Every active school board member whose board belongs to the Association is automatically an active member of the Association as long as he remains in office.

Section 3. An ex-member of the Association may become an associate member upon the recommendation of the school board of which he was a former member by paying the membership fee stipulated in these By-Laws. Associate members shall have all the privileges of active members with the exception of voting and holding office in the Association.

Section 4. Past presidents of the Association who are no longer school board members shall automatically be associate members of the Association.

Section 5. Any person who has rendered outstanding service to the Association or to public education may, by a vote of the Board of Directors, be granted an honorary membership in the Association.

Article III. Meetings

Section 1. Except in cases of emergency, the Association shall meet during the first quarter of each year at a time and place designated by the majority vote of the members present at the last regular meeting.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the President with the approval of a majority of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. The Executive-Secretary-Treasurer shall notify all member school boards of the date of the next meeting of the Association at least sixty days prior to the date of the meeting.

Article IV. Officer and Directors

Section 1. The officers of this Association shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, and an Executive-Secretary-Treasurer.

- Section 2. Active members only shall be eligible to hold the office of President, First or Second Vice-President.
- Section 3. The Executive-Secretary-Treasurer need not be a school board member. Salary and other expenses of the Executive-Secretary-Treasurer shall be determined by the Board of Directors.
- Section 4. There shall be a Board of Directors consisting of a representative from each of the State's eight congressional districts, the President, First and Second Vice-Presidents, and the immediate past-president. Directors from each of the congressional districts shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee. At least three of the Directors shall be appointed from the previous board. Vacancies on the Board, except as provided by Section 5, Article IV, shall be filled by appointment of the President with the approval of the Executive Committee.
- Section 5. If an officer or director of the Association fails to attend two successive meetings of the Board of Directors, without being duly excused therefrom by the President, the President may then declare the office held by such absentee, to be vacant; vacancies so created shall be filled by the President with the approval of a majority of the Board of Directors.

Section 6. No person shall hold more than one office in the Association at the same time.

Article V. Elections

Section 1. Only active members shall cast ballots in any election.

Section 2. The regular election shall take place at the same time and in the same place as the annual convention of the Association.

Section 3. Nominations may be made by any active member at the time of the annual meeting.

Section 4. Where no candidate receives a majority of all votes cast, there shall be a second election in which the two highest in each case shall contend again.

Section 5. The President, First Vice-President and Second Vice-President shall be elected to serve for one year until the close of the succeeding annual meeting and until their successors have been elected.

Section 6. The Executive-Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by the Board of Directors for a term of four years, said term to begin on January 1, 1951.

Section 7. Directors from the eight Congressional Districts shall be appointed for a term of one year.

Article VI. Duties of Officers

Section 1. The President shall

- a. Call and preside over all regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors
- b. Appoint all committees with the approval of the executive committee
- c. Have a deciding vote upon all questions in case of a tie
- d. Preside over the annual meeting of the Association
- e. Perform such other duties as may seem necessary or as otherwise are provided by the constitution and by-laws of the Association

Section 2. The First Vice-President shall

- a. Assume the powers and duties of the President in his absence
- b. Succeed to the presidency when a vacancy occurs in that office
- c. Perform such other duties as are delegated to him by the President or as otherwise provided by the constitution and by-laws of the Association

Section 3. The Second Vice-President shall:

- a. Assume the powers and duties of the First Vice-President in his absence
- b. Succeed to the First Vice-Presidency when a vacancy occurs in that office

- c. Perform such other duties as are delegated to him by the President, or as otherwise provided by the constitution and by-laws of the Association

Section 4. The Executive-Secretary-Treasurer shall:

- a. Collect membership dues and other funds of the Association and deposit them to the credit of the Association
- b. Provide surety bond at the expense of the Association in the amount required by the Board of Directors
- c. Edit, publish and distribute to the members, the journal of the Association, one issue of which shall contain the business proceedings of the annual meeting
- d. Make a full financial report and a general report to the annual meeting of the Association
- e. Keep the records of the Association, to attend to the correspondence and clerical work of the Association and the Board of Directors, and to perform such other duties as the Directors may prescribe.
- f. Disburse funds from the General Fund upon the approval of the Association or the Board of Directors. All checks on the General Fund shall be countersigned by the President of the Association

Section 5. If any officer dies, resigns, becomes incapacitated or leaves the State permanently, his term of office shall

terminate and the President shall, with the approval of the Board of Directors, select a successor to serve until the close of the next annual meeting.

Article VII. Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall

- a. Meet at such times as may be determined by the President or upon the written request of eight of its members
- b. Have a majority of its membership constitute a quorum
- c. Have vacancies during its term filled by appointment of the President with the approval of a majority of its membership
- d. Have power to act in all matters affecting the welfare of the Association not otherwise herein provided for, and where a meeting of the entire Association is inexpedient
- e. Recommend to the Association plans of action whenever it considers such recommendation advisable
- f. Propose and present to the annual convention an annual budget of receipts and disbursements for approval by the Association
- g. Determine annual dues for member boards and associate members subject to approval by the Association

Article VIII. Quorum

Section 1. Active members present at the state meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Article IX. Rules of Order

Section 1. Roberts' Rules of Order shall govern all meetings in so far as such rules do not conflict with the constitution and by-laws.

Article X. Membership Cards

Section 1. The Executive-Secretary-Treasurer shall issue membership cards to the active, associate, and honorary members.

Article XI. Amendments

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended or repealed by a two-thirds vote of members in attendance at the state convention.

APPENDIX B

CODE OF ETHICS

LOUISIANA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Recognizing that as a member of a public school board I am filling a position of public trust, responsibility, and authority endowed by the State of Louisiana, I hereby subscribe to the following principles by which a school board member should be guided.

I.

My allegiance is first to the children of my parish or city school system and not to any political party or business organization.

II.

I will not seek through my office special privileges or private gain, nor will I use my position to promote my business or professional interest.

III.

I will seek to provide equal educational opportunities for all the children regardless of race, creed, or location

IV.

I recognize that it is my duty to assist in formulating educational policy. However, I recognize that it is the duty and responsibility of the superintendent in his capacity as executive officer to see that these policies are carried out.

V.

I understand that in the selection of teachers and other school personnel the superintendent nominates candidates for these positions and selection by the board is made from such nominations based on merit alone. I will not bring pressure on the superintendent to nominate candidates in whom I have a special interest. I will insist that the board reserve to the superintendent the privilege and responsibility of nominations of candidates for school personnel. I recognize that the training of the child is paramount and that giving employment is a secondary matter.

VI.

I understand that I have no authority as an individual board member but must act with and through the board as a whole and I must be governed by the decisions of the board.

VII.

I will keep myself as well-informed as possible about the conditions in the school system and about such other matters as will help me serve as an efficient school board member.

VIII.

Understanding that I am a representative of the public, I will endeavor to keep the public informed about the progress and needs of the schools.

IX.

I will refrain from making any commitment upon any subject which rests within the school board's authority for final discussion and decision.

X.

Recognizing that all school personnel should work in close cooperation, I will give my hearty support to the total school program. I will not publicly criticize school personnel, but will make such criticism to the superintendent for investigation and action if necessary.

XI.

Recognizing that the superintendent is the executive officer of the school system, any complaints and recommendations that may

have been submitted to me shall be referred to the superintendent for presentation to the board.

XII.

I will affiliate with my professional organization, the Louisiana School Boards Association, and as far as possible will attend its convention and take part in its activities.

XIII.

Recognizing that the expenditure of public school funds is a public trust, I will endeavor to see that all public school funds shall be expended efficiently, economically, and for the best interest of the schools.

XIV.

With a basic belief in the dignity of the individual, I will respect teachers, and as a board member I will not subject their daily lives to harsh or petty restrictions which I would not impose on other good citizens.

XV.

I will attend board meetings with an open mind and listen to what other board members and other individuals or groups have to say before making final decisions.

XVI.

I will continue my interest in the school program at all times and as an individual citizen and champion of the schools, I will guard the interests of the school. When citizens and patrons who do not know or fail to remember my limitations of authority call on me to correct some situation in connection with the school, I will not avoid the issue by denying authority but will counsel with the applicant and if action is necessary will refer the applicant to the superintendent or go with him to the superintendent for a conference in order that the problem may be solved in the best interests of education.

XVII.

As the administration of the schools of Louisiana is conducted on a parish wide or city wide basis and as my responsibility is to all of the children, I will consider the program for whole administrative unit in making decisions. I will not try to seek special privileges for my own ward.

XVIII.

Recognizing the rights of the employee and the board, I will insist on following completely the procedure stipulated by law in every case where a teacher or other employee is being tried for incompetency or other cause which might subject him to dismissal.

(Signed) Fred G. Thatcher

APPENDIX C

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE LOUISIANA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Parish</u>
1938	L. P. Roy, Jr. (Deceased)	Avoyelles
1939	C. W. Thompson (Deceased)	Webster
1940	C. T. Bienvenu (Deceased)	St. Martin
1941	Theo O. Hotard	Orleans
1942	J. Emile Verret (Deceased)	Iberia
1943	G. F. Hennigan (Deceased)	Beauregard
1944 and 1945	John J. Doles (Deceased)	Bossier
1946	Julius F. Hotard	Jefferson
1947	B. S. Landis (Deceased)	Franklin
1948	Gano D. Lemoine (Deceased)	Avoyelles
1949	F. A. Keelen (Deceased)	Sabine
1950	Robert M. Haas (Deceased)	Orleans
1951	M. L. Marquette (Deceased)	St. Mary
1952	Levi O. Campbell, Jr. (Deceased)	Avoyelles
1953	Walker W. Teekell (Deceased)	Caddo
1954	C. J. Drost	Calcasieu
1955	Loney J. Autin	Jefferson

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Parish</u>
1956	Jack C. Ritchie	Lincoln
1957	Marvin W. Bass	Caddo
1958	Dr. H. B. Hewett	Calcasieu
1959	Henry G. Taliaferro	Catahoula
1960	Matthew R. Sutherland	Orleans
1961	Joe D. Waggoner, Jr.	Bossier
1962	Joseph P. Arceneaux	Lafayette
1963	Ingram R. Ballard (Deceased)	Union
1964	Leon M. Knight	Washington
1965	Harry McKenzie, Jr.	Claiborne
1966	Fulton J. Bacon (Deceased)	Evangeline
1967	Koy F. Pace	DeSoto
1968	Allen J. Tillery	St. Bernard
1969	James J. Roberson	Bossier
1970	Dr. Robert Dolese	Lafourche
1971	Dr. R. McIntyre Bridges	Webster
1972	George F. Dupuis, Sr.	Lafayette
1973	Lawrence A. Bagley	DeSoto

APPENDIX D

DATES AND LOCATIONS OF THE LOUISIANA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL CONVENTIONS

1. January 20, 1938: New Orleans, Louisiana
2. February 22-23, 1939: Shreveport, Louisiana
3. March 4-5, 1940: Lafayette, Louisiana
4. March 24-25, 1941: New Orleans, Louisiana
5. February 9-10, 1942: Baton Rouge, Louisiana
6. March 23-24, 1943: New Orleans, Louisiana
7. March 28-29, 1944: New Orleans, Louisiana
8. No Convention in 1945 due to World War II
9. June 17-18, 1946: New Orleans, Louisiana
10. June 29-30, July 1, 1947: New Orleans, Louisiana
11. March 8-9, 1948: Monroe, Louisiana
12. March 6-7-8, 1949: Alexandria, Louisiana
13. March 12-14, 1950: New Orleans, Louisiana
14. January 21-23, 1951: Lake Charles, Louisiana
15. March 2-4, 1952: New Orleans, Louisiana
16. January 25-27, 1953: Shreveport, Louisiana
17. March 14-16, 1954: New Orleans, Louisiana
18. January 31-February 1, 1955: Monroe, Louisiana
19. February 5-6-7, 1956: New Orleans, Louisiana

20. February 3-4-5, 1957: Shreveport, Louisiana
21. January 19-20-21, 1958: New Orleans, Louisiana
22. February 22-23-24, 1959: Monroe, Louisiana
23. January 17-18-19, 1960: New Orleans, Louisiana
24. January 15-16-17, 1961: Alexandria, Louisiana
25. January 14-15-16, 1962: New Orleans, Louisiana
26. January 13-14-15, 1963: Baton Rouge, Louisiana
27. January 12-13-14, 1964: New Orleans, Louisiana
28. January 17-18-19, 1965: Shreveport, Louisiana
29. January 16-17-18, 1966: New Orleans, Louisiana
30. January 22-23-24, 1967: Alexandria, Louisiana
31. February 4-5-6, 1968: New Orleans, Louisiana
32. March 13-14-15, 1969: Lafayette, Louisiana
33. January 18-19-20, 1970: New Orleans, Louisiana
34. January 24-25-26, 1971: Shreveport, Louisiana
35. March 16-17-18, 1972: Lafayette, Louisiana
36. January 21-22-23, 1973: New Orleans, Louisiana

VITA

Anthony Eugene Pacella was born in Youngstown, Ohio, on July 28, 1939, the son of Dominic J. Pacella and Cornelia Honda Pacella.

After graduating from Memorial High School, Campbell, Ohio, he attended the Ohio State University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1961 with a major in Comprehensive Science. He received his Master of Science degree in 1964 with a major in Guidance, from Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania.

He was employed by the West Branch Local School District from 1961 to 1964 where he held the position of high school teacher.

He has been an employee of the Campbell, Ohio School System since 1964 and has held the position of high school teacher and guidance counselor and is presently serving as instructor of physics and varsity golf coach.

EXAMINATION AND THESIS REPORT

Candidate: Anthony Eugene Pacella

Major Field: Education

Title of Thesis: A HISTORY OF THE LOUISIANA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Approved:

Richard A. Muscenski
Major Professor and Chairman

James B. Traylor
Dean of the Graduate School

EXAMINING COMMITTEE:

Sam Adams

Jimmy W. Andrews

Ollie B. Auglaar

Berton Bremillion

David C. Yang

Date of Examination:

April 18, 1977